MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 DECEMBER 1982

Lebanon

'Alayh-Ash-Shuf Situation -- The 'Alayh and Ash-Shuf areas were calm on 14 December following a 13 December meeting during which the clashing groups agreed to cease fire and to remove armed personnel from the roads, according to Beirut radio reports. ITIM cited assertions by Israeli military sources in 'Alayh that the 13 December fighting was "limited firing" caused by extremists interested in renewing clashes.

Tripoli Clashes -- Efforts to control the situation in Tripoli were unsuccessful on 12 December because the deployment of Lebanese security forces and the implementation of other security measures were not completed; clashes resumed and continued throughout the night, Beirut radio reported. Baghdad Voice of PLO radio claimed that 45 were killed or wounded in the 12-13 December clashes. An atmosphere of unrest prevailed in Tripoli on 14 December following another night of fighting, during which shells fell on the Al-Baddawi camp, Beirut Voice of Lebanon radio reported. This incident led to "intensive deployment" of armed Palestinians in the area of the camp, the radio claimed. All schools in Tripoli remained closed on 14 December, but businesses were gradually reopening, Beirut radio noted.

Tripoli Delegation to Syria -- A delegation from Tripoli, Lebanon, left for Syria to discuss measures to end the current tension there, Beirut Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Liaison Meeting -- During a meeting of the Political Committee of the Higher Liaison Commission of the multinational forces, President Amin al-Jumayyil drew attention to the deteriorating security situation both in the Ash-Shuf Mountain areas and in the north and called for quick action to end the clashes, Beirut radio reported. The president affirmed that the government is making every effort to begin negotiations for a quick Israeli withdrawal, the radio added.

Israel

Lebanon Negotiations -- Noting that U.S. envoys Philip Habib and Morris Draper are expected in Israel shortly, IDF radio declared that the men will find "a great deal of readiness" in Jerusalem to begin negotiations immediately. This readiness may be expressed in a softening of Israel's demand to hold negotiations in Jerusalem, the radio added. Interior Minister Yosef Burg stated that while meeting in the two capitals shouldn't be ruled out, Israel should investigate whether there are "sufficient incentives to give in on the geographical question of the venue for the talks," IDF radio reported. Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon claimed that if the United States agrees to separate the Palestinian problem from the Lebanese problems, the venue will no longer be a key issue in preventing progress in the negotiations, Jerusalem radio reported.

Sharon's U.S. Visit -- Although Defense Minister Sharon told Jerusalem television that he saw "nothing unusual" in the fact that he was not received by U.S. officials during his recent visit to the United States, the Tel Aviv daily HA'ARETZ cited Jerusalem political sources as saying that Sharon felt "bitterly humiliated" by the United States and would fiercely oppose any new U.S. proposals in an effort to "pay the Americans back."

Egypt

Haykal Interview -- In an interview with the Beirut weekly magazine MONDAY MORNING, former Cairo AL-AHRAM editor Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal asserted that the recent events in Lebanon completely exposed Arab impotence, marked the end of an Arab era and confirmed the Egyptian people's worst suspicions about Israel. Haykal declared that the Reagan peace plan was proposed to absorb Arab anger, but Reagan does not intend to implement it because it would be easier to impose U.S. will on a fragmented Arab world. A new Arab era is inevitable, and will be created as a result of the "despair and disgust" that is currently evident throughout the Arab world, Haykal added.

Mubarak in Europe -- President Husni Mubarak met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz at the Egyptian Embassy in Rome on 13 December to discuss the situation in Lebanon and the settlement of the Palestinian question, MENA and Cairo radio reported. Mubarak later left Rome for Bonn, where he will meet with senior FRG officials, another MENA report noted.

PLO

Amman Meeting -- The higher Jordanian-Palestinian committee held two meetings in Amman on 13 December, according to Amman radio reports. The delegations, led by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran, discussed joint relations and joint political moves within the framework of the Fes summit resolutions, the radio noted. The committee will devise a plan to define future relations and to preserve proposed options pertaining to the final legal form of these relations, Radio Monte Carlo claimed. PLO spokesman Mahmud Labadi told AFP that the negotiations with Jordan were "very positive."

Baghdad Voice of PLO radio declared that the Palestinian move toward Jordan is in complete accordance with the general Palestinian policy and that the PLO Executive Committee, the PLO Central Council, and the Palestine National Council made decisions in this regard; however, an official source in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) alleged that the committee that is currently meeting in Amman was not formed as a result of a decision made by any legitimate Palestinian group, SANA reported. The source stressed that the PFLP-GC rejects the committee's tasks and warned those meeting in Amman of the grave consequences which may result from tampering with the Palestinian cause, SANA added.

Relations With Syria -- The PLO spokesman revealed that an Arab good offices committee is trying to mediate between the PLO and Syria, Radio Monte Carlo and AFP reported; the spokesman termed the existing differences as a misunderstanding between members of the same family.

YAR Earthquake

An earthquake damaged or destroyed over 80 towns and villages in the YAR's Dhamar Province on 13 December, killing at least 686 people, San'a' radio reported. A statement issued by YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, broadcast by San'a' radio, indicated that the government has sent military, security and medical assistance to the province. The earthquake registered between 5.4 and 6 on the Richter scale, San'a' radio reported.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PFLP-GC DENOUNCES JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN BODY

JN132025 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1955 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Damascus, 13 Dec (SANA) -- An official source in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated that the so-called Palestinian-Jordanian committee meeting in Amman was not formed in accordance with a decision by the PLO Executive Committee, the PLO Central Council, or any other legitimate Palestinian body. The source added that the formation and tasks of this committee were not discussed in any of the Palestinian meetings which proceded the announcement of its formation.

The source stressed that the formation of this committee was in response to a U.S. demand that a Palestinian-Jordanian understanding take place for beginning joint negotiations with the enemy on the basis of Reagan's plan, Resolution 242, and the autonomy rule defined by the Camp David accords.

The source warned the conferees of the grave consequences which may result from any tampering with the Palestinian cause and stressed that the PFLP-GC rejects the committee's task.

The source called on all the members of the committee on both sides to explicitly reject the Reagan plan if they are really loyal to the cause.

PLO SPOKESMAN SAYS TALKS WITH JORDAN 'POSITIVE'

NC131928 Paris AFP in English 1914 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Amman, Dec 13 (AFP) -- An Arab "good offices" mission is currently trying to bring about a rapprochement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Syria, PLO spokesman Mahmud Labadi said here today.

Mr Labadi told AFP that current divergences between the two were only a "misunderstanding between members of the same family."

He also said that an Arab meeting would be held in mid-January to review diplomatic activity by the Arab League "committee of seven".

This committee was in September [word indistinct] mandated to present the resolutions of the Fes Arab summit to the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

It has so far visited the United States, France, Soviet Union and China. A visit to Britain was cancelled because of British Government conditions on participation by the PLO.

The Jordanian news agency PETRA later announced that Mr 'Arafat today met Crown Prince Hasan ibn Talal, who is acting as viceroy in the absence of the king.

PLO spokesman Mahmud Labadi told AFP that the negotiations with Jordan were "very positive".

The PLO was "showing great flexibility" with a view to reaching a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict, he said, but added that such an attitude "cannot last indefinitely".

SALAH KHALAF ON SYRIA, ARAB WORLD, ISRAEL

AU101200 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 3 Dec 82 p 2

[Dobrica Pivnicki report on interview granted by Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, to VJESNIK during his stay in Yugoslavia -- date, place not given]

[Text] Belgrade -- During his stay in Yugoslavia, Abu Iyad, PLO security leader and number two man in the PLO, responded to the request of our Belgrade correspondent and granted a special interview to VJESNIK.

[Question] In an interview for VJESNIK during the Israeli siege of Beirut, you spoke about an escalation of the struggle between the Palestinian fedayeen and the Israeli Army. However, soon afterward the decision to leave Beirut was made. Can you give us today, several months later, your current assessment about the PLO decision to leave Beirut?

[Answer] The blockade, thirst, and hunger were the main causes of our departure from Beirut. Certain Arab leaders called on us to commit suicide. Our reply to such "appeals" was: Beirut is not a Palestinian town. I also believe that suicide is too simple and useless a way out. It is much easier to commit suicide than to do certain things. During the siege of Beirut, it was precisely the leaders of the Islamic-Progressive parties of Lebanon that exerted the greatest pressure on us. This pressure was greater than that from Israel. We did not want to commit suicide. We did not expect any assistance from the Soviet Army, nor from anyone else. We were aware of the fact that there was a great international plot against the Palestinian people's destiny. The Arab countries played a special role in this plot. All this influenced our decision to leave Beirut.

[Question] In reply to the question on possible changes in Israel put to you in an interview recently, you have said that the differences between Begin and Peres is like that between Pepsi-Cola and Coca-Cola.

[Answer] This is correct. However, speaking about changes within Israel, it is significant that demonstrations began as early as at the beginning of the war, first involving about a hundred people, which later became a resistance movement against this war with several hundred thousand participants. For the first time, the Israeli army also had deserters. During the siege of Beirut, some 4,000 Israeli soldiers left their units. The mass demonstrations in Israel itself, as well as the large number of deserters, have demonstrated that many people in Israel, both civilians and soldiers, do not believe in this war. The Israeli press played a special role in these changes. For the first time it wrote about Palestinian rights and about the Palestinian problem.

As regards the difference between Shim'on Peres and Menahem Begin, there is hardly any difference. Peres agreed with Begin that it was necessary to liquidate the PLO and the Palestinian people. The only thing in which they differ is the procedure, the manner in which to achieve this goal. Within the Socialist International it was demonstrated that Shim'on Peres favors war but not in the same way that Begin does. It is certain that Peres also favors the PLO's annihilation and the destruction of the Palestinian people. The two men completely agree on this....

[Question] Abu Jihad has recently indicated a greater military coordination between the PLO and Jordan. Does this mean that an Israeli military option against Jordan is assumed?

[Answer] I believe that King Husayn has not rejected such a possibility. Israel's military option against Jordan has existed as a danger since the seventies.

However, I personally do not believe that it is in Israel's interest at this moment to attack Jordan. What Sharon is threatening now, that Jordan must become the home of the Palestinians, is the usual blackmail. With this blackmail he wants to force King Husayn to accept Israeli conditions. For this reason I also rule out the possibility of military action. Naturally, I believe that at this moment the United States would not allow such aggression. Besides, Israel is still suffering from the consequences of the war in Lebanon.

[Question] The Palestinian presence in Jordan is of vital importance for the PLO. Is it possible to speak at the present moment about a federation or confederation with Jordan?

[Answer] We insist on establishing an independent Palestinian state. Cooperation with Jordan, either in the form of a federation or a confederation, means a concession and really indicates that Palestinian independence would not be gained. We demand the right to our own state. During his first visit to Jordan, Yasir 'Arafat clearly set forth our views on the rights to acquire our own state. He explained that we want our own state with our own flag, coat of arms, and our own passport, our own army and diplomatic status. This has been clearly confirmed by the decision of the Arab meeting in Fes. Once an independent Palestinian state has been established, then we are prepared for any kind of cooperation with Jordan or any other Arab country. Only in this case would we not see any obstacles; on the contrary, we would accept a union within the framework of the Arab world. Briefly, the present cooperation with Jordan does not mean that we are giving up our rights to our own state. As far as I know, the Jordanian side, or rather King Husayn, has accepted these positions of ours. Following the Fes meeting, erroneous interpretations appeared, and the Jordanian initiative has been equated with Reagan's plan. Reagan's plan contains serious and positive elements, but it contains the same things as UN Resolution 242. The weaknesses contained in the resolution are also contained in Reagan's plan.

To accept Reagan's plan would mean giving up the decisions of the Arab meeting in Fes. Therefore, to explain once again: We are in favor of acquiring an independent Palestinian state first, and afterward wider cooperation with Jordan.

[Question] How do you assess Egypt's policy and what do you expect from the Egyptian efforts to solve the Palestinian problem?

[Answer] First of all there is a difference: As-Sadat's and Mubarak's Egypt. It is well-known that As-Sadat was an initiator of the Camp David agreement. As-Sadat had created a gap between himself and the rest of the Arab world. The worst thing in As-Sadat's initiative, in the Camp David agreement, is the thesis on Palestinian autonomy. What is new in Mubarak's approach are the positions on Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and his position on relations with the other Arab countries. Our desire is that Egypt should return to the Arab ranks. No one has any doubts about Egypt's values, and the question remains how great are the Egyptian capabilities for solving the Palestinian problem. When we learn the extent of these Egyptian capabilities, then we will strive to utilize these capabilities. Naturally, we will insist that Egypt should give up the Camp David agreement. The talks on autonomy and on withdrawing the Egyptian ambassador from Israel are indicative in this respect. All these are positive things.

[Question] Could you comment on the current relations between the PLO and Syria?

[Answer] I had expected this question. At the time of the attack on Lebanon, certain differences in appraisals became evident. Syria and the PLO did not share the same appraisals of the goals and the extent of the events.

We had expected from Syria a far more serious involvement in Lebanon. But this did not happen. Certain disagreements of that time have left their traces in Syrian-Palestinian relations. However, regardless of disagreements, we continue to aspire to have clear [jasan] relations with Syria, relations built on sound foundations. We also believe that mere generalized statements as regards our relations with Syria are no longer enough and that specific steps must now be taken. We must move on to defining many things and thereby reach coordinated views. They certainly will not be unanimous views because that is impossible. But we want to jointly analyze all problems and reach an accord on many matters. I must also say something else about Syrian-Palestinian relations and this is that all those who are trying to undermine the relations between the PLO and Syria will not succeed. First of all, the unity within the framework of the PLO is firm, far firmer than it is presumed to be. Second, it would be precisely Syria which would lose if the relations between the PLO and Syria were disrupted. As a matter of fact, this is the first time that we have spoken about Syria and our relations.

[Question] At this time, is there a unity in the Arab world as regards the Palestinian problem, as was announced at the Fes meeting?

[Answer] As is known, the Arab position is always wavering. But we think that what was stated in Fes, and embodied in the agreement reached there, is a minimum which can satisfy everyone. But a rejection of this minimum would provoke greater conflicts and result in quarrels within the Arab world. This can be noticed in the very composition of the seven-member Arab committee. It is known that there are differences among its members. But when the time comes to meet and embark on a journey, they are all there. Nevertheless, the question still is whether all this leads to the right decisions and the right solution, that is, whether this can force Israel to withdraw. Experience teaches us that Israel does not yield to any peace initiatives. Israel can only be bent by the pressures from those forces which support it. Naturally, it is up to us to examine and see in which way the peace and all other initiatives can contribute to settlement. We must remind ourselves that Great Britain has refused to receive the Palestinian delegate who is a member of the seven-member Arab committee despite the fact that Great Britain is responsible for everything that has happened in Palestine and for what has happened to the Palestinian people.

[Question] The American Administration claims that it wants peace. The United States certainly can exert pressure on the Israeli Government.

[Answer] I personally wish this to happen but something of this kind only happened during Eisenhower's administration. I do not believe that the present American Administration will exert any pressure on Israel. Just as Nazi Germany did in its time. Israel insists on occupying Lebanon and remaining in all other occupied territories and rejects Reagan's and all other initiatives in the world. Israel even negates the very principles on which it was founded as a state. Israel is attacking the individual Arab countries and also threatening the entire Arab world with its campaigns. In this connection it can be compared to Nazi Germany. It is difficult to foresee at this time what the outcome will be.

[Question] According to news agency reports, Israel and Syria are amassing their troops in Lebanon simultaneously with the negotiations on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon. Is it possible to speak about a possible conflict or is a matter of strengthening their positions for future negotiations what is involved?

[Answer] It can be hardly believed that Israel could bear another war effort. On the other hand, Israel needs time to "digest" what it has gained in the war in Lebanon, especially in southern Lebanon. But the possibility of Israel making such a step should not be excluded; naturally, if it is given the green light by Washington. Such a step would put Israel in a more favorable position in possible future negotiations.... As regards the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon, I can say that we have sent a letter to President al-Jumayyil in which we express our complete readiness to withdraw our forces when the Lebanese Government requests us to do so. However, we are also seeking certain guarantees for the protection of the Palestinian population.

[Question] Recently, the possible recognition of Israel by the PLO has been talked about in the world.

[Answer] I expected this question and I can tell you that a unilateral recognition has been constantly talked about. What usually happens is that the PLO is requested to recognize Israel. What is involved in this connection is primarily blackmail by the United States and the West as a whole.... The existence of a Palestinian state in any of the currently occupied territories in practice implies the recognition of the other partner (Israel). The Fes decisions, too, must be understood in this light. The founding of an independent Palestinian state implies a de facto recognition of the other side. To illustrate this, let me recall that at my last meeting with Austrian Chancellor Kreisky, I said: "I would like to see a journalist stand up with an announcement about the formation of a Palestinian state. Unfortunately, all questions always refer to the recognition of Israel and not vice versa."

[Question] In conclusion, I want to ask you to appraise the relations between Yugoslavia and the PLO.

[Answer] The relations between the PLO and Yugoslavia have existed for quite some time. They were established during the life of Comrade Tito. These relations have been firm and good since the very beginning. What makes us feel certain in this respect is the fact that the policy which existed in Tito's time also continues today. I must say that what is involved is not an accidental policy, an accidental choice. It is an expression of the people's conviction. I have personally become convinced of this during my several visits to your country. Recently I visited several cities outside Belgrade. In Kragujevac, I saw that the former Nazi and the present Israeli methods are identical.

I have also reached the conclusion that the paths of development of our revolutions and our struggles for liberation are similar in many respects. It is true that our struggle has its own specific characteristics. We struggle against colonialism and against colonialism in its specific aspects -- the settlements. But the terrorist and Nazi methods against which you fought and those against which we are fighting today are completely identical. In Kragujevac, it was Major Koenig who conducted the operations and, in Beirut, in the Sabra and Shatila camps, it was General Sharon. Only the names are different. This is the reason for our mutual understanding and cooperation, precisely because of similarities of our struggles.

Our cooperation is not limited to one sphere but extends to a very wide area. Comrade Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to your country as well as my visit are a contribution to developing this cooperation. We have met with full understanding of the Yugoslav Government. In the same way, in connection with any special event and in any especially difficult situation, we come to Yugoslavia to exchange views with our comrades here.

We are interested in the views of our Yugoslav comrades and we take their views into consideration. I want to say that such meetings took place during the difficult days in Beirut. At that time, there were Yugoslav comrades in Beirut and in Damascus. Among them there were also Yugoslav journalists. I must say that Yugoslav journalists have really contributed to providing better information to the public, something that is very important to us.

EGYPTIAN SOURCES SAY PLO-U.S. CONTACTS HELD

LD121434 Kuwait KUNA in English 1113 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Doha, Dec 12 (KUNA) -- A local daily Sunday quoted sources at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry as saying that contacts at the ambassadorial level have already taken place between the PLO and the U.S. Administration in the presence of a senior Egyptian official.

AL-'ARAB quoted the sources as saying that the talks are an essential shift in the American attitude which required a PLO recognition of the Jewish state as a pre-condition for initiating any dialogue with the Palestinian organization.

They pointed out that the negotiations will enter a practical phase in the coming few weeks.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry story said that the dialogue will expand at a later stage after securing joint approval of certain points to cover Lebanon and Jordan.

INA: UK DENIES CHANGE IN STAND ON ARAB COMMITTEE

JN101210 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] London, 10 Dec (INA) -- In a statement to the INA correspondent here today, Michael Elliot, British Foreign Office spokesman, has dismissed reports that the British Government has changed its position on receiving the PLO representative within the seven-member Arab committee.

The spokesman further added that the talks being held by Lord (Galvond) and Foreign Office Under Secretary (Steven Ikordon) with Moroccan officials deal with the British Government's arrangements to receive next month the Moroccan monarch and his delegation, excluding the PLO representative. He affirmed that the British Government insists on not receiving or meeting with any PLO official unless the latter recognizes Israel.

'ARAFAT SENDS REPLY CABLE TO USSR LEADERS

JN091717 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has sent a cable of thanks to the comrades in the Soviet leadership in reply to the cable of solidarity which he has received on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity With the Palestinian People and their just struggle. In his cable, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: I would like to express to you and all comrade members of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the friendly peoples of the USSR our sincere thanks and great appreciation for your firm, principled stands of support and assistance for our people's just struggle against imperialism and Zionism in order to regain the firm, legitimate national rights of our Palestinian people, including their right to return, determine their own destiny, and set up their own independent Palestinian state on their national soil -- Palestine.

Brother Abu 'Ammar concluded his cable by saying: I would like to assure you of the firm, strong determination of the PLO and our Palestinian people to strengthen the ties of friendship and mutual cooperation with the friendly peoples of the USSR and the socialist bloc countries for the well-being of mankind and for the sake of peace and progress in the whole world.

MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN SPAIN

GF121524 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 11 Dec 82 p 1

['Amid ash-Shanti dispatch]

[Text] AL-WATAN has learned from diplomatic sources in Rabat that Moroccan Foreign Minister M'hamed Boucetta is currently visiting Algeria to prepare for a meeting that will take place between Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and the Moroccan monarch, King Hassan II. The sources said the meeting will take place in Spain, not in Saudi Arabia, and that King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz' visit to Spain 2 days ago was in this regard.

AL-WATAN was informed by diplomatic sources that there are diplomatic moves in the Moroccan capital at the present time in order to come up with a "meal" from U.S. President Reagan's initiative and the Arab peace plan adopted by the Fes summit. The sources said that U.S. officials informed some Arab capitals that they are rather convinced of the necessity to have the PLO participate in any negotiations to resolve the Palestinian question, that the United States will pressure Israel in order to force it to withdraw from Lebanon and that it will also employ all forms of pressure, including financial and military pressure.

The sources also said that Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's visit to Moscow had a profound influence on the U.S. policy in the region.

UAE, ALGERIAN PRESIDENTS NOT TO VISIT IRAQ, IRAN

GF121450 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 11 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] Arab sources in Rabat have asserted to AL-WATAN that there are no plans for the Algerian president and UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan to visit Baghdad and Tehran at the present time.

The sources said that Iran is still insistent on its stand of not negotiating with Iraq.

VENEZUELAN ENERGY MINISTER URGES OIL PRICE FREEZE

GF131522 Doha QNA in Arabic 1350 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Dec (QNA) -- Dr Humberto Calderon Berti, Venezuelan energy and mines minister, has called for freezing oil prices for 2 years. He said this will enable the industrialized countries to revive their economic growth and consequently will increase the demand for oil.

In a statement published in today's issue of the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, the Venezuelan minister, who is currently visiting Kuwait on a tour of a number of OPEC countries, called on the OPEC ministerial conference, which will be held in Vienna on 19 December, to agree on a long-term future plan to resolve problems of international market regarding prices and production.

In this regard, the Venezuelan minister said: We in OPEC are convinced of the need to reach an agreement and settlement on the issue of prices and production because, if we do not reach an agreement, the year 1983 will be very difficult for OPEC. He added: The 1983-84 period will be "very sensitive and the only way to resolve the problems facing us is unified action."

On the other hand, Calderon denied that he will make a tour of the oil-exporting countries which are not members of OPEC before the next OPEC conference in Vienna. He said: Oil-exporting countries have close relations with exporting countries which are not members of OPEC, foremost of which are Mexico and the North Sea oil countries.

The Venezuelan minister expressed his optimism for the success of the Vienna meeting "despite all the difficult circumstances."

Asked if his current efforts to reach a settlement before the meeting have failed and whether the meeting will take place on schedule, Humberto Calderon said: "We will meet because it is a ministerial meeting."

He concluded his statement by saying: "We all expect that we will meet in Vienna."

The Venezuelan minister arrived in Kuwait yesterday on another leg of his tour which has so far taken him to Algeria and Saudi Arabia.

OPEC SECRETARY GENERAL ON PRODUCTION, PRICING

AU131007 Vienna Domestic Service in German 0618 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Herbert Hutar report on an interview with OPEC Secretary General Nguema in Vienna "a few days before the Vienna OPEC conference" -- date not given -- recorded portions of Nguema answers begin in English with superimposed German translation]

[Excerpts] [Begin Nguema recording] When you talk about OPEC having 33 percent in the world's oil production, one should not forget that OPEC's main role lies in international oil trade, and here we really represent the overwhelming share, that is, between 70 and 75 percent. This means, nevertheless, that generally we find ourselves in a difficult economic situation at present. The recession is definitely far-reaching and energy consumption has gone down. In 1983 we expect a world production of something around 45 million barrels per day, with an OPEC share of some 20 million barrels per day -- which means that we still have a sizeable part of it. [end recording]

Obviously, it is intended to officially raise the production quotas, which have already been exceeded.

[Question] Do the North Sea producers now constitute a danger to OPEC?

[Begin Nguema recording] I don't think that the North Sea is dangerous to OPEC -- rather for these producers themselves. I can explain this quite easily. You see, the North Sea would find itself in a far more difficult position should oil prices continue to drop. You know, most OPEC countries -- with the exception of some small ones -- could let the oil price drop to $15 and still make a profit, while the North Sea producers cannot afford to go below $20 because production costs in the North Sea are very high and oil developing there is very expensive. [end recording]

[Begin recording] [Question] And a last question -- the oil price?

[Answer] Thirty-four.

[Question] Thirty-four?

[Answer] Yes, thirty-four.

[Question] And in the nearest future?

[Answer] The nearest future -- we'll just see how the market is going to behave. [end recording]

OPEC EXPECTED TO DISCUSS PRODUCTION CUTS

AU101104 Vienna KURIER in German 10 Dec 82 p 6

[Excerpt] When the 13 OPEC member countries hold their next meeting in Vienna on 19 December 1982, they will primarily discuss a curbing of production quotas. Experts are agreed that in view of the strongly reduced demand for oil OPEC can stabilize its prices only if its members voluntarily restrict their crude oil output.

At present, oil circles do not exclude the possibility that, in the event the current disunity among OPEC member countries continues, there might be a drastic oil price slump for the next 2 years.

As is known, last March OPEC officially fixed a joint production ceiling at 17.5 million barrels per day. Several OPEC countries, however, have silently exceeded their quotas, for example, Iraq and Venezuela. At present, OPEC oil wells are turning out 20 million barrels per day.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC JUSTICE MINISTERS MEET IN RIYADH

LD122230 Riyadh SPA in English 2001 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 12 (SPA) -- Justice ministers from the Gulf Cooperation Council met here tonight to discuss unification of judicial systems and principles of jurisdiction.

They are also expected to discuss the standarisation of legislations based on the Islamic Sharia, unification of criminal law, personal statutes, and court procedures. Discussions will also cover a treaty on judiciary evidence implementation of courts and judges' sentences as well as a treaty on extradiction of criminals.

The ministers are also expected to discuss the possibility of making use of the Arab League's experience in unifying legislations among Western states.

They will also review the possibility of publishing a judicial magazine and a legal encyclopaedia and exchange of expertise and research.

After an opening address by Saudi Justice Minister Ibrahim Al ash-Shaykh the meeting turned into a close session. Before the opening session, the ministers held a closed-door session to discuss the topics on the agenda.

BAHRAIN

INTERIOR MINISTER ON GCC SECURITY AGREEMENT

GF120950 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Manama, 12 Dec (WAKH) -- Bahraini Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah has declared that the GCC General Secretariat is still continuing its contacts and consultations on the comprehensive security agreement among the GCC states. In a statement published by the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR-AL-KHALIJ today, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah affirmed that the security cooperation among the GCC states has been greatly developed and that the comprehensive agreement will be an integral part of this cooperation and will place this cooperation in its correct legal framework which we consider the official framework of security cooperation.

The Bahraini interior minister said: The preparation and creation of this agreement require unhurried work. We, as the GCC interior ministers, did bear in mind the importance of this agreement and the time it requires and at the same time we decided to subject it to further discussion so that it can be well and correctly understood.

He added that the security agreements are particularly governed by accuracy due to the importance and sensitiveness of the matters they contain. Therefore, we wanted to present to their majesties and their highnesses a picture about the progress of the security cooperation measures and about the real cooperation resulting from the agreement and at the same time to hear their guidance and right opinions. The Bahraini minister pointed out that the presence of some differences in views about the agreement is due to the significance and sensitiveness of the matters which the agreement will contain. He affirmed that what was mentioned about the presence of obstacles and differences regarding this agreement is not true.

In his statement Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah spoke about the Arab interior ministers conference which will be held in Morocco tomorrow, Mondays and affirmed that this conference is a new constructive step toward bolstering joint Arab work to confront the current challenges facing the Arab nation.

Regarding the new basic system agreed upon during the Arab interior ministers conference in At-Ta'if, he said: There is no doubt that this step is positive and is one of the joint steps taken by the Arab countries to confront the challenges and discuss their fatal issues.

He expressed hope that tomorrow's meeting and the coming meetings will take the executive and organizational measures for the decisions reached in the previous conferences. He affirmed that the joint Arab security work will support and strengthen the security cooperation actually existing among the GCC states.

INTERIOR MINISTER LEAVES FOR MOROCCO

GF111604 Manama WAHK in Arabic 1416 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Manama, 11 Dec (WAKH) -- Bahraini Interior Minister Shakyk Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah left Manama for Morocco today heading the Bahraini delegation to the meetings of the Arab interior ministers council which will be held in Casablanca during the period 13-15 December.

KUWAIT

VENEZUELA'S CALDERON ARRIVES, DISCUSSES OPEC

LD121802 Kuwait KUNA in English 1637 GMT 12 Dec 82

[By Shamil Kheiry]

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 12 (KUNA) -- Venezuelan Energy Minister Humberto Calderon Berti arrived here this evening in the second leg of a tour which so far took him to Algeria and Saudi Arabia.

In the course of his two-day visit, Berti will discuss preparations for the forthcoming OPEC meeting scheduled to open in Vienna December 19.

"We do believe we have to make a big effort to defend the price structure", Berti said in an interview with KUNA on arrival here.

The problem which is facing us now relates to demand, and "I think we agree with 'Ali as-Sabah, [name indistinct] and Yamani" that we must work out together to defend the price structure of 34 dollars a barrel for the benchmark crude.

"But at the same time we do believe that next year is going to be a very different one," Calderon Berti said, adding "we have to make an effort to reach an agreement on production levels."

"It is the only way to defend our market. In short we have many options to reach an agreement and that is the main reason for my trip to Algeria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iran", Calderon Berti added in the interview with KUNA.

"We think OPEC has an important role to play, but in the short term our first objective will be to defend this price structure".

The only way to do this is through production programming. We think there are some problems, and in my opinion we have to control our levels of production, the minister added.

"Secondly, we think some of the countries are using commercial practices by giving discounts". Those countries should stop that because they are affecting the price structure.

"What those countries are doing is affecting us and themselves" Calderon Berti said, and added "We believe all the exporters including those who are non-members of OPEC have to make a big effort mainly Mexico and the North Sea producers.

"I think our share of the market has been decreasing since 1979. We were producing 31 million barrels a day in 1979, 27 million in 1980, 22.2 million in 1981 and this year are producing about 18.5 - 19 million barrels a day," Calderon Berti said.

Next year the demand for OPEC oil is going to be something like 19.5 million [word indistinct]. We believe if we make an effort altogether, there would be enough room to produce 20 million barrels a day to protect the cleavage between offer and demand, Calderon Berti added.

STATEMENT ON DJIBOUTI PRESIDENT'S VISIT

LD131300 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Press statement on the visit by Djibouti President Hassan Gouled to Kuwait, issued on 13 December]

[Text] At the invitation of his brother his highness the amir of Kuwait, His Excellency President Hassan Gouled, president of the Republic of Djibouti, heading an official delegation, paid a visit to Kuwait from 12 to 13 December 1982. The guest president and the accompanying delegation were accorded a warm, official, and popular welcome expressing the depth of the fraternal bonds existing between the two fraternal countries.

During this visit, official talks took place between the two sides dealing with bilateral relations and the current Arab and international situation. Regarding the development of the Palestinian issue and the situation resulting from the continuation of Israeli aggression on the Arab nation, the two sides affirmed their full support for the resolutions of the 12th Arab summit conference in Fes and their commitment to the principles adopted by the conference in relation to the Arab-Israeli conflict. They affirmed their two countries' full support and backing of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and their rejection of all projects and plans which conflict with the inalienable national rights of this people, at the forefront of which is its right to self-determination and to set up an independent state.

The two sides also affirmed their full support for all endeavors and efforts exerted by the Lebanese Government to put an end to the Israeli aggression, to preserve Lebanon's sovereignty and independence, and to achieve national unity under the shadow of its legitimate authority.

Regarding the situation in the Arabian Gulf region, the two sides expressed their conviction that preserving security and stability in the region is the responsibility of the region's countries alone.

The Djibouti side hailed the achievements of the Gulf Cooperation Council on the path of building up intrinsic Arab strength and backing the joint Arab action. Furthermore, the two sides expressed their concern over the continuation of the armed conflict between Iraq and Iran and their hope for a speedy end to this conflict by peaceful means.

Regarding the situation in the Horn of Africa, the two sides expressed their hope for a cordial settlement of the existing conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia on the basis of mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs. The two sides affirmed their two countries' determination to proceed with the policy of nonalignment and to reject international hegemony in its various forms.

Their views were in agreement on all international issues and problems discussed. His Excellency President Hassan Gouled expressed his own and his accompanying delegation' thanks for the warm welcome accorded to his delegation during this visit, and extended an invitation to his brother the amir of Kuwait to visit Djibouti, which his highness accepted with thanks, the date of which will be fixed later.

AS-SIYASAH CALLS FOR RESTORING TIES WITH EGYPT

GF121427 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 11 Dec 82 p 1

[Editorial: "What Remains for Officially Restoring Relations With Egypt?"]

[Text] What is preventing the restoration of relations with Egypt, now that contacts between it and the Arab world have become official, open, and announced?

We said before that the Baghdad summit conference resolutions included a number of points, some of which were against Egypt, others against Israel. These resolutions were not implemented, except for the anti-Egypt pact. The anti-Israeli part was not implemented because all the Baghdad summit conference resolutions were not practical -- there were even resolutions of financial effects which benefitted only some of the Arabs in the confrontation [front]. Aside from this, there was nothing else.

We are now more convinced that Egypt is important and that Egypt, with its new political leadership under Husni Mubarak, possesses many important papers. That is why we hold contacts and consultations with it. Egypt has thrown its weight many times behind Arab causes, be they near or far, whether at our request or through its own initiative, motivated by mature national feelings.

Egypt is very important to us. We know this, but we have not dared to invite it to any Arab summit or return our envoys. If opinion in the Arab world is that of the majority, most of the Arab countries want to restore their relations with Egypt because they officially hold consultations and hold contacts with it. If there are one or two regimes opposed to Egypt's return, we have to ask: Why do these regimes in particular oppose Egypt's return? Is it because they are concerned with the national or pan-Arab interest or because they have interests that conflict with Egypt's return and with the exchange of diplomatic representation?

We regret to say that those who oppose the restoration of relations with Cairo side with the foreigner who does not want Egypt to resume relations with the Arab world.

Israel and a number of foreign regimes will not be pleased with the restoration of Arab-Egyptian relations because Egypt will become stronger with the Arabs and the Arabs will become stronger with Egypt. Between these conflicting views, we are victims of unreasonable ideas and decisions which, as we said right from the start, will be difficult to carry out because they are not practical.

Egytp now maintains good relations with Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Oman, Sudan and Somalia. It even has good reciprocal relations with many Arab regimes which left the Egyptian capital to the Israeli ambassador at a time when their role required them to keep their ambassadors there.

Talk about positive Arab action is an ideal and it grieves us to say that it is not available. That is why it is wrong for some Arab regimes to hesitate in sending their ambassadors to Cairo before a collective decision is made. A collective decision is not available because the decision to boycott Egypt was, right from the start, not a collective one.

QATAR

INTERIOR MINISTER LEAVES FOR MOROCCO

GF121243 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1155 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Doha, 12 Dec (WAKH) -- Qatari Interior Minister Shaykh Khalid ibn Hamad Al Thani today left Doha for Morocco leading the Qatari delegation to the meetings of the first Arab interior ministers council session which begins in Casablanca tomorrow, Monday, and which will last 3 days.

QATARI-TANZANIAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED 13 DEC

GF131536 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Doha, 13 Dec (WAKH) -- Qatar and Tanzania have emphasized that the Palestinian issue is the crux of the Middle East problem and that a just and comprehensive settlement cannot be achieved unless the Palestinian people achieve their firm and inalienable rights for self-determination and for establishing their independent state on their soil under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

In a joint communique issued today following the visit to Doha by Tanzanian Foreign Affairs Minister Salim Ahmad Salim from 11 to 13 December, the two sides strongly condemned the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the brutal massacres Israel has committed against Palestinian and Lebanese civilians in Beirut and in the camps of Sabra and Shatila.

They also called for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal by the Israeli invasion forces from Lebanon and from all Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war, including Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan Heights.

In their joint communique, the two sides expressed their full support for the just struggle the peoples of South Africa and Namibia are waging against the hateful apartheid policy. They also affirmed their support for the people of Namibia in their just struggle to gain independence and freedom from the racist occupation of the government of Pretoria.

The two sides also expressed their deep concern about the continuation of the Iraqi-Iran war and emphasized that the continuation of this conflict will jeopardize the Nonaligned Movement and the Gulf's security and stability. They called on the two belligerent parties to put an end to their hostilities through peaceful negotiations and reiterated their support for peaceful efforts that have been made by some international organizations and governments to halt the fighting between Iraq and Iran and to reach a just and durable peaceful settlement in the region.

The Qatari and Tanzanian sides expressed their desire to deepen relations and agreed to establish diplomatic relations on an ambassadorial level.

SAUDI ARABIA

SA'UD, GROMYKO REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED AFGHANISTAN

NC102214 Paris AFP in English 2200 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Text] Paris, Dec 10 (AFP) -- Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko last Friday during the visit to Moscow of an Arab League peace delegation, today's issue of the Arab weekly AL-MUSTAQBAL published here reported.

According to the magazine's Saudi correspondent, the two men discussed the situation in Afghanistan.

AL-MUSTAQBAL said Prince Sa'ud told Mr Gromyko that a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan would contribute to keeping the Gulf region free from super-power influence.

But the weekly said that the Saudi minister found little comfort in Mr Gromyko's views on the subject.

According to Al-MUSTAQBAL, quoting informed political circles in the Saudi capital, although Prince Sa'ud had been given a warm welcome in Moscow, the Saudis had hoped for a clear answer from the Soviets on peace prospects in Afghanistan.

COMMENTARY EXAMINES U.S. PEACE INITIATIVES

LD122336 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Hashim Abduh Hashim news analysis]

[Text] Where are the labor pains that the region is passing through leading its peoples, countries, and leaderships? A quick glance at yesterday's events alone provides many indications: Some give rise to optimism; some entrench every reason for skepticism; and others open the door wide for all possibilities. This means that the prevalent characteristics of this stage are weakness of positions and ambiguity of objectives, and the impossibility of coming to a conclusion about what this difficult stage of labor pains may lead to.

At a time when President Reagan has started banking on the success of his initiative, that it has overcome all difficulties, we find that his envoy to the Middle East, Philip Habib does not expect mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel in real terms. This gives rise to an important question: It is possible for Reagan to succeed in pushing his plan forward without U.S. recognition of the PLO?

How would it be possible to achieve peace in the absence of mutual recognition among the parties concerned with the issue? Very briefly, this means that the expected peace would not be with the consent of the concerned parties. Perhaps it would be achieved through compulsion, coercion, and violence; and amidst more trials, blood, and complete despondency about the possibility of achieving the principle of justice or equity.

Such an imposed settlement would definitely not constitute a peace; neither would resignation to a de facto situation that was not based on mutual, final convictions. This has been happening at a time when the former U.S. secretary of state, Henry Kissinger, has come up with a unique interpretation of the measure that the U.S. Administration has committed itself to -- namely, the complete rejection of negotiating with the PLO. This interpretation is -- as propounded by Kissinger -- that the measure did not prohibit receiving the PLO's prominent figures, exchanging views with them, or meeting them.

Clearly, this clever way out provided by Kissinger to the American Administration is significant in more than one way: It reflects a fresh desire on the part of this administration to justify any encounter that may take place between some of its officials and elements from the organization. It may give the American Administration a stronger possibility of making a move and putting pressure on Israel, given that the American commitment does not preclude such an encounter. A great deal of success may be directly achieved by this in the American peace moves.

This conveys the impression that this administration had arrived at this interpretation with Kissinger -- or through Kissinger or even without him -- and took the first step in the meeting of Secretary of State Shultz with the mayors of the West Bank and Gaza, thus paving the way for preliminary encounters, comprehensive and public, with PLO members some other time.

However, this impression contradicts statements by President Reagan and his envoy to the region -- even if this contradiction means that U.S. efforts and attempts, which perhaps exceed mere enticement, are being made in those countries resentful toward the United States to make them rescind their anti-American campaign in return for further U.S. steps on the road to peace.

On the other hand, labor pains in the Arab region coincide with signs coming from the Israelis indicating that the Israeli Government has decided to show more flexibility toward Habib's forthcoming tour in the region. This points to the effect of U.S. pressure, particularly during the visits of Israeli officials to Washington, and the resolve of the U.S. Administration to accelerate negotiations and open the road to other elements that may include Jordan with the participation of PLO members. What matters to us in the region is that our states and peoples are fed up with waiting. The method of marking time in taking steps does not represent a genuine ambition to put an end to the deteriorating situation; the state of confusion in which we are living must immediately stop so the states of the region may devote themselves exclusively to promoting their respective societies instead of remaining hostages to fear and threats, a fact that reflects policies of domination, hegemony, and the bringing of peoples under one's tutelage.

PDRY

DEFENSE MINISTER ON PALESTINE, REGIONAL PEACE

LD131310 Kuwait KUNA in English 1035 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 13 (KUNA) -- South Yemen Defense Minister Col. Salih Muslih announced in an interview published here Monday that Yemeni forces have fought alongside the Palestinian Resistance in Lebanon.

In an interview with the local daily AS-SIYASAH the Yemeni official added that his government had sent heavy arms to the Palestinian Revolution during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and deplored the fact that the state of disarray which prevailed in the Arab world had prevented further Yemeni contributions to the confrontation of the Israeli aggression.

The main Israeli goal in Lebanon was to disperse the Palestinian revolutionary forces, Col. Muslih said and urged the PLO to maintain Palestinian national unity.

He affirmed his country's backing of the Palestinian Revolution in the face of any attempt to disintegrate its unity.

The Yemeni minister denied reports of any change in the country's political or military leadership describing such rumors as mere speculation.

Col. Muslih asserted that his country's major target is to maintain peace, security and stability in the region and emphatically rejected that it has any expansionist ambitions.

"South Yemen is a small country which is only interested in preserving its stability and national sovereignty," he added.

"Peace will prevail in the region when others reciprocate our true desire for stability and security," the minister said, adding that South Yemen has limited economic resources and only wishes that all would understand its desire for good-neighborly relations.

The defense minister affirmed that his country depends solely on Soviet weapons saying that they are the best and most advanced. "We do not want Western arms," he added.

ATH-THAWRI ASSAILS U.S.-OMANI MANEUVERS

GF111936 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] The newspaper ATH-THAWRI, the organ of the YSP Central Committee, today strongly denounced the provocative military exercises the United States is carrying out in the Arab region.

In its editorial, the paper said that carrying out these maneuvers, by using its strategic and aggressive military arsenal at this time, is an indication of a fervent U.S. campaign to exploit the outcome of the Gulf war, the Israeli invasion of Arab parties, and that Washington is moving to a new and grave stage to tighten control over the region and strike at the positions of the Arab struggle against imperialism and its allies.

The newspaper emphasized that we, in the PDRY, are firmly convinced that the U.S. military machine cannot subjugate the peoples who are united by struggle and determination to build their free life, nor can it force them to give up the determination to continue their way to complete the building of our new society and establish peace among the countries and peoples of the region.

YAR

686 DEAD, 1,104 INJURED IN 13 DEC EARTHQUAKE

GF141224 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] In a statement to Saba' News Agency an official source of the committee charged with rescuing the (?victims) of the earthquake has said that the latest count of the stricken villages indicates that up to 1200 today 136 villages have been affected by the earthquake, of which 11 villages were totally destroyed. The casualty figure at present stands at 686 dead and 1,104 injured.

The source said that search for those buried under the rubble is proceeding steadily.

President Issues Statement

GF131834 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 13 Dec 82

[Statement issued by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the earthquake that struck Dhamar Province on 13 December -- read by announcer]

[Text] Brother citizens: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thanks be to God, for he is the only one to be thanked when harm is inflicted. We thank him, accept the fate he gives us, and believe that death is right, heaven is right, and hell is right. We also believe that God resurrects the people from the graves. Peace be upon God's prophet, Muhammad ibn 'Abdallah, the prophet of humanity and an example for all the Muslims in faith, patience, and [word indistinct].

O brother citizens, O sons of our glorious Yemeni people. God's will -- which cannot be rejected -- came today when many areas in our young republic were subjected to an earthquake, which was intense in some parts of the Province of Dhamar in the areas of Anis, (?Al-Hitha), and Jahran and totally destroyed some of the cities and the villages. Morever, dozens of villages were subjected to partial destruction, and dozens of buildings collapsed over their owners and residents.

O brother citizens, this grievous event to which our people were subjected today dictates that leaders and people be united and that we use all our capabilities to cooperate and expand aid to the hundreds of our brothers who were injured or buried under the earth. O brother citizens, as I was following with you developments of the regretful incident, my heart bled for our brothers and sons and their fathers who fell victim to this earthquake. I announce to all of the homeless, and to all those who lost a father, a brother, a child, or a mother, that I am for the brother, the sister, the father. I am certain that you all share the same committal feelings with me, particularly for all those who suffered, and we will provide full support. We have put our military, security, and medical capabilities on alert in order to provide aid in an expedient manner.

In the name of all the official and popular institutions and our people, I express to you my sincerest condolences. I also convey condolences, in my name, to all the families and relatives of the killed, the injured.

I express my most profound feelings of sorrow, pain, and sadness and ask the Almighty to grant mercy, grace, and forgiveness to the victims of this painful incident. I ask the Almighty to provide their relatives with patience. From God we come and to God we shall return. Power comes only from God the Almighty.

[Signed] Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress

PRESIDENT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM PDRY CHAIRMAN

GF111816 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office at the General Command today Brother Ahmad ash-Shijni, minister of state for the People's Constituent Assembly affairs and member of the Standing Committee, who conveyed to the brother president a verbal message from Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers in the southern part of the homeland, in response to the message which the brother president sent to him dealing with the issues concerning the two parts of the homeland and an exchange of view.

ECONOMIC DELEGATION LEAVES FOR MOSCOW 11 DEC

GF111820 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister for economic affairs and member of the Standing Committee, left for Moscow today leading an economic delegation on an official visit to the USSR.

In a statement to Saba' News Agency, Dr Makki said he is carrying a written message from Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, dealing with relations between the two friendly countries and the strengthening of economic cooperation to benefit both of them.

He said he will also hold economic talks with Soviet officials to further (?trade) relations and to (?reinforce the steps) that were agreed on during the visit which, Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, brother president and secretary general of the General People's Congress, made to the Soviet Union and which will greatly enhance the good bilateral relations.

In conclusion, Dr Makki expressed his great hope and confidence that this visit will achieve complete success.

'ALI INTERVIEWED ON TABAH, AUTONOMY, LEBANON

NC130758 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA) -- Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon is the first step toward a comprehensive settlement and that the next step is Arab readiness to participate in the expanded negotiations.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM published today, 'Ali warned all parties against giving Israel the opportunity to prolong its stay in Lebanon, saying that this hinders confronting the crux of the Palestinian problem. He affirmed the need for not allowing Israel to place obstacles in the way of the PLO's effective emergence into the international arena through its contacts with the United States. In this respect, 'Ali called on the PLO to take courageous steps that could make it an active partner in the peace process.

Regarding the autonomy negotiations, 'Ali pointed out that the Egyptian-U.S. views agree that the return to these negotiations must take place within a broader framework than in the past and with the participation of other partners.

On the contacts between Egypt and Jordan, 'Ali said that there are high-level contacts with Jordan and that President Mubarak and His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan exchange messages.

Referring to the recent visit to Lebanon by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs and Foreign Ministry first under secretary, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, head of the president's office for political affairs, 'Ali said that the visit came after an in-depth study of the situation in Lebanon and its links with the general situation. He affirmed that the visit to Lebanon by the two Egyptian envoys was approved to express Egypt's support and backing of the Lebanese people and their legitimate government and Egypt's traditional relations with all sects of the Lebanese people.

Speaking on the Tabah problem, 'Ali said that Egypt is holding contacts with the United States and Israel to resume the negotiations to implement the Tabah agreement. He expressed the hope that agreement will be reached on these negotiations and on the other steps that must be taken to end the differences over the demarcation of the borders between the two countries.

BUTRUS GHALI INTERVIEWED ON CONTACTS WITH LEBANON

JN101958 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1745 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Interview with Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Cairo Huda Tawfiq carried within "It Happened Tomorrow" program -- place, date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Dr Butrus Ghali, you were the first Egyptian official to visit Beirut since the Israeli invasion and even since the signing of the Camp David agreements between Egypt and Israel. You visited Beirut at a time when there were no diplomatic relations between Egypt and Lebanon. This shows that the current Lebanese crisis is so serious and important that it cannot wait for the restoration of diplomatic relations. How was your mission to Beirut?

[Answer] First of all, I would like to observe that diplomatic relations are not as important as the real relations between the peoples and the leaderships of the two countries. These relations have always existed. In December 1977 -- after As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem -- Lebanon was invited to take part in the preparatory conference that was held in Cairo. What I want to say is that relations between Egypt and Lebanon exist; they are real, genuine, and strong between the two peoples and the two governments, and between the Lebanese and Egyptian leaderships despite appearances and despite the fact that there is no Egyptian ambassador in Beirut and no Lebanese ambassador in Cairo.

[Question] Let us go back to Your Excellency's mission in light of the contacts you held with President al-Jumayyil and the Lebanese leaders.

[Answer] The aim of the visit was to deliver a letter from President Husni Mubarak to the Lebanese president. This letter expresses the existing solidarity between Cairo and Beirut. It shows Cairo's desire to support President al-Jumayyil in his difficult task on both the domestic and foreign levels. He should attempt to effect a reconciliation among the various Lebanese groups and get rid of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon. Egypt wants to tell the Lebanese president that it is ready to help him both internally and externally.

[Question] Is this also the desire of the Lebanese Government and the leaders whom you met?

[Answer] In fact, I met with a great number of Lebanese leaders belonging to all the political currents and factions. I found a sort of consensus that Lebanon wants to deal with Egypt on the political level, that it is of the view that the Cairo-Beirut dialogue is essential. Through this dialogue, Egypt can help Lebanon both internally and externally.

[Question] What was Al-Jumayyil's reaction to Mubarak's letter? What was the reaction of the Lebanese Government?

[Answer] The Lebanese Government responded to Egypt's readiness to offer support and to conduct continuous consultations. There must be continuous consultations between the Lebanese and Egyptian Governments because this will lead to coordination in promoting the cause of peace. Lebanon now is in the same difficulties that Egypt underwent in the past. There are foreign forces occupying Lebanon and Lebanon has to negotiate with occupation forces to end the occupation. These same foreign forces used to occupy Egyptian territory. Egypt negotiated with this foreign party and was able, through negotiations, to end its occupation of Egyptian territory. Lebanon is endeavoring to achieve the same aims with the same methods. Egypt is able to cooperate with Lebanon in order to achieve the aim of evacuating the foreign forces from Lebanon so that Lebanon can regain sovereignty over this territory and ensure its territorial and political unity.

[Question] Dr Ghali, you have felt and experienced Lebanon's crisis. The Israeli forces were storming the Lebanese Defense Ministry at the time when Your Excellency's motorcade was passing through the streets of Beirut. In your opinion, what is Lebanon's real crisis now?

[Answer] The real crisis is that there is a kind of Israeli intransigence. Israel either lacks the desire to withdraw from Lebanon or is procrastinating. What is required is more U.S. diplomatic action, because the United States has pledged to work for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. The U.S. had pledged that the withdrawal would take place before Lebanese Independence Day on 22 November. This did not take place. The United States then affirmed that this would take place before the end of the year.

We are now approaching the end of the year and the Israeli forces are still in Lebanon.

Therefore, there should be more contacts and diplomatic action with the United States to impress upon it the importance of immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. We cannot begin the peace process and tackle the basis of a comprehensive solution in the Middle East before the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. Therefore, this is a test to determine how serious the United States is in working for the achievement of peace in this region.

[Question] Dr Ghali, no doubt lack of progress in Habib's mission has created a crisis of confidence between Lebanon and the United States, but Lebanon continues to maintain its contacts. In light of Your Excellency's mission in Beirut, we imagine that Egypt can play a role here by contacting the United States. How true is this?

[Answer] There is no doubt that Egypt's diplomatic aim is to hold more contacts with the United States to convince it of the importance of Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. When Philip Habib visited Cairo a week ago, we made this point clear to the U.S. envoy. Furthermore, we must consider other alternative courses from now on, should the U.S. mission fail. Discussion about alternative courses is also one of the aims of Egyptian diplomacy.

[Question] Could we talk about these alternative courses, Dr Butrus? What are they?

[Answer] I do not like to discuss the details of these alternative courses, but the Egyptian-French initiative now before the UN Security Council is one of them. Through this plan, we can embark on other diplomatic moves, but before considering the alternatives, we must first try to hold further contacts with the U.S. side. We must also try to prevail on the European Community to contact the United States and make it take real action, not just confine itself to slogans, appeals or visits. There must be real action to bring about Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

[Question] Regarding political and diplomatic contacts and Philip Habib's mission, how far have they gone so far with regard to Lebanon?

[Answer] Actually, the United States has made pledges but has not yet fulfilled them. We are awaiting the fulfillment of these pledges, because we believe that this will facilitate moves toward comprehensive peace in the region. We are calling for such a move. Indeed, the main issue is Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, but there are also other issues, which are the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza, the establishment of an interim regime [nizam iniqali] in the West Bank and Gaza, and the continuation of negotiations concerning the Palestinian people. There is a close link between the Lebanese issue and the Palestine question. The withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon is a first step toward resolving the Palestine question.

[Question] It seems, Dr Butrus, that the Lebanese issue is not just Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, but also the fact that the Israeli presence and occupation is causing differences between Lebanese factions. What are your impressions from your meetings with the leaders?

[Answer] Actually, we began the talks by saying that there is an internal and an external issue, and that Egyptian diplomacy is willing to help find solutions to both. There is no doubt that President al-Jumayyil's task is to achieve national reconciliation; there is also no doubt that the Israeli presence is not helping to achieve this reconciliation.

[Question] Dr Butrus Ghali, following your return from Beirut, what is your impression concerning a future settlement in Lebanon? Are you optimistic, or is the situation gloomy?

[Answer] Personally, I am optimistic. I believe that the talks between the Egyptian delegation and the Lebanese leadership were positive and that they will contribute toward a resolution of the Lebanese issue and, consequently, of the Middle East crisis.

[Question] Dr Ghali, we have heard statements by Israeli officials that Egypt had waited through 15 years of Israeli occupation of the Sinai and that Lebanon must also wait for some time before the Israeli forces withdraw. Is this the impression of the Lebanese Government?

[Answer] Actually, there is a big difference between the Israeli occupation of the Sinai, which was unpopulated, and Israeli occupation of Lebanon. Israeli occupation of Lebanon affects Lebanese national reconciliation. On the other hand, Israeli occupation of the Sinai did not have any impact on Egyptian society. Therefore, Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon must take place as quickly as possible so there will be stability and so that Lebanon will be able to play its role in Arab society.

[Question] Thank you, Dr Ghali.

AL-'ARAB: CAIRO 'OFFICIALLY DELEGATED' MEDIATOR

GF121241 Doha QNA in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Doha, 12 Dec (QNA) -- The Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB said today that Egypt informed the United States that it has been officially delegated by the Lebanese Government to mediate in achieving peace in Lebanon. The newspaper said that U.S. Secretary George Shultz will present to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, during their meeting in Rome tomorrow, specific U.S. proposals that were described as constructive and concern the situation in Lebanon.

Quoting diplomatic sources, the paper affirmed that the U.S. proposals include a partial withdrawal from Lebanon of the Israeli troops in an attempt to give momentum to the efforts for peaceful settlement on the basis of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's initiative, in light of which Lebanese national reconciliation will be achieved and the legal authority in Lebanon will be supported.

AL-'ARAB added that another meeting between Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and director of President Mubarak's office for political affairs, will be held at end of this week to discuss the U.S. proposals and the possibility of accepting them to settle the crisis. Dr al-Baz and Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, paid a sudden visit to Beirut last Wednesday, during which they met with Lebanese President al-Jumayyil and Lebanese leaders.

FOREIGN MINISTRY 'SOURCES' ON U.S.-PLO CONTACTS

GF121150 Doha QNA in Arabic 1120 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Doha, 12 Dec (QNA) -- In a report from Cairo quoting sources at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB today affirmed that contacts at the level of ambassadors have actually begun between the PLO and the United States with the presence of a high-ranking Egyptian official. The paper said that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue will practically begin within the few coming weeks.

The paper added that according to these sources, these contacts are considered a substantial change in the U.S. stance, which stipulated the necessity of the PLO's recognition of Israel as an approach to dialogue with the United States. Diplomatic sources close to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry affirmed to the newspaper that this dialogue will be expanded after reaching specific points of agreement that include Jordan and Lebanon.

At the beginning of its contacts with the U.S. Administration, the PLO stressed the necessity of Israel's commitment to complete withdrawal from Lebanon.

CHIEF OF STAFF COMMENTS ON LEBANON, PREPAREDNESS

NC131954 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA) -- Lieutenant General 'Abd Rabb an-Nabi Hafiz, armed forces chief of staff, has said that what Israel is doing in Lebanon makes our responsibility both big and serious. He said that Egypt's strength and impregnability are the strength and impregnability of all Arabs.

In an address he delivered today on the occasion of the graduation of a new group of armed forces brigade leaders, the chief of staff said: If we are now living through a phase of peace, we must be fully convinced that peace will continue as long as the military strength and capability that protect and defend peace remain.

The chief of staff called on the armed forces to work, to be prepared, and to attain combat efficiency so as to be always the impregnable rock on which all the forces of evil and aggression will founder.

The ceremony, which took place at the Staff and Command College, was attended by Lieutenant General Sayyid Hamdi, air defense forces commander; Major General Muhammad Nabih as-Sayyid, assistant defense minister and director of the armed forces Training Department; Major General Qadri 'Uthman, armed forces Organization and Administration Department director; Major General 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jawhari, artillery commander; Major General Muhammad Tantawi, Staff and Command College director; and a number of senior officers.

In his address, Maj Gen Muhammad Nabih as-Sayyid emphasized that, to Egypt the peace phase means further development, preparation, training, and sacrifice so that the army of Egypt will always be the beacon of military thought and the deterrent force that protects, but does not threaten, and is able to extend the hand of help to the Arab brothers.

At the end of the ceremony, the chief of staff distributed graduation certificates and prizes to the brigade commanders who attained first grades.

ANDROPOV CABLES THANKS TO PRESIDENT MUBARAK

NC131539 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Cairo, 13 Dec (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a cable of thanks from CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Yuriy Andropov in reply to the cable of condolences which his excellency sent on the death of Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev. The following is the text of Andropov's cable:

All of the Soviet leaders and CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Yuriy Andropov convey to you their profound gratitude for your condolences on the death of Leonid Brezhnev.

PRC ENVOY DISCUSSES YE JIANYING'S CAIRO VISIT

NC111757 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] The Chinese ambassador in Cairo has stated that the visit which Ye Jianying, chairman of the PRC's National People's Congress, will make to Egypt is of special importance, because it will be the first visit that he will make following the convocation of the 12th CPC Congress.

The ambassador said: The relations between Egypt and China are strong ones, and this visit will contribute to the bolstering of these relations.

His excellency added: The talks that will take place between President Husni Mubarak and Chairman Ye Jianying will focus on the political topics of interest to the two countries and on bilateral relations.

The chairman of the PRC National People's Congress will arrive in Cairo on 20 December for a 4-day visit. Chairman Ye Jianying will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak and with senior state officials.

Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with the Chinese ambassador to Egypt. The ambassador gave Mr 'Ali a copy of his credentials. The two officials also reviewed the matters connected with the visit which the PRC National People's Congress chairman will make to Cairo.

'ISMAT AS-SADAT TO BE REFERRED TO ETHICS COURT

NC121559 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Cairo, 12 Dec (MENA) -- MENA has learned that the socialist prosecutor general's department will issue a decision in the next few days referring 'Ismat as-Sadat, his two wives, and all his children, adults and minors, to the Court of Ethics and extending the validity of the decision to detain 'Ismat as-Sadat and two of his sons in a safe place because of their danger to society.

MENA has further learned that the referral decision will include the charges addressed to 'Ismat as-Sadat and members of his family, explain their financial position, and include a list of the names of the prosecution and defense witnesses who will be summoned to testify in the case.

Counsellors Husni 'Abd al-Hamid and Mahmud ash-Sharabini, assistants to the socialist prosecutor, will represent the prosecution on behalf of the socialist prosecutor's department.

PRESIDENT MUBARAK VISITS ROME, MEETS WITH SHULTZ

For Rome and Cairo media reporting on the visit of Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to Rome, including a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, meetings with top Italian Government leaders, and a speech to the sixth session of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, see the Italy & the Vatican section of the Western Europe DAILY REPORT for 14 December.

RAMADAN, 'AZIZ RETURN FROM USSR VISIT 10 DEC

JN102215 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2200 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA) -- Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, and Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister, returned to Baghdad tonight after a 2-day working visit to the Soviet Union.

Iraqi-Soviet talks were held in Moscow this morning; taking part in the talks on the USSR side were Andrey Gromyko; member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister, and Boris Ponomarev, alternate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee. The talks, which were held in a cordial and constructive atmosphere, dealt with Iraqi-USSR relations and issues of joint interest.

Meeting Termed 'Optimistic'

LD111112 Kuwait KUNA in English 1019 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 11 (KUNA) -- Two senior Iraqi officials returned home late Friday night at the conclusion of a two-day working visit to the Soviet Union after securing "a better Soviet understanding of the Iraqi viewpoint in the Gulf war," Arab diplomatic sources said.

The sources told KUNA in Moscow Friday that the Iraqi First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan and Deputy Premier Tariq 'Aziz were optimistic regarding the outcome of the meetings.

The sources said that the visit was a secret one and was not announced until the end of official talks which mainly tackled the Iraqi-Iranian two-year long armed confrontation and the overall situation in the Gulf region.

The two parties have reached important decision "that could help end the blood letting," the sources emphasized.

The official Soviet media (?only) yesterday announced that the two Iraqi delegates were in Moscow and added that they have met with Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko and Communist Party Central Committee Secretary Boris Ponomarev.

Rumours circulated among the diplomatic corps in Moscow say that the Soviet Union may adopt certain negative stands against the Iranian adamant attitude on halting the Gulf hostilities.

The Arab sources, however, said that the Kremlin leaders have blessed the Iraqi Government's stand on the war on all levels particularly its acceptance of all mediation efforts.

The new Soviet leadership has shifted its stand to the Iraqi side, the sources noted, adding that the Soviet Government has appreciated the Iraqi initiatives on ending the Gulf war describing them as healthy and appropriate in comparison to the Iranian obstinate attitude in imposing internationally unreasonable conditions.

RAMADAN RECEIVES USSR-IRAQI FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION

JN122008 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received this evening the USSR-Iraqi Friendship Society delegation led by Robert Vladimirovich Praude, deputy chairman of the Latvian Council of Ministers.

Ramadan welcomed the Soviet delegation, pointing out that the exchange of visits between the friendship society contributes toward promoting ties of friendship and cooperation with friendly countries. He said the intensification of plots against Iraq, such as the war of aggression launched by the forces of the Iranian regime, are attempts to stop the march of progress and development in Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn. He said that all these attempts will increase the Iraqi people's determination to adhere to their principles and independent path and to preserve the various achievements of the revolution led by the Ba'th Party in building up the new Iraqi society and increasing the happiness of the Iraqi people.

Ramadan also said Iraq is interested in establishing satisfactory relations with various world states in order to serve joint interests in accordance with its firm principles and independent policy.

Robert Praude expressed pleasure at visiting Iraq and voiced his appreciation of and admiration for the conprehensive progress and development in Iraq despite the current war. This clearly shows the determination of the Iraqi political leadership, led by President Saedam Husayn and supported by the Iraqi people, to build up a new, progressive, and developed Iraq regardless of the difficulties, and to possess the means of progress and development.

Robert Praude praised the achievements of the July Revolution, which is led by the Ba'th Party, in various fields, affirming that the July Revolution has created people who are able to defend their achievements, progress, and revolution.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Fattah Muhammad Amin, president of the Federation of Friendship Societies with Peoples, and the USSR charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER 'URAYM REPLACED

JN121742 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] A republican decree was issued today relieving Sa'di 'Ayyash 'Uraym, minister of local government, from his post and appointing Kamil Yasin Rashid in his place. The following is the text of the decree:

Republican Decree No 749, in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph D of Article 52 of the Provisional Constitution, we decree the following:

1. Sa'di 'Ayyash 'Uraym will be relieved from the post of minister of local government.

2. Kamil Yasin Rashid will be appointed minister of local government.

Issued in Baghdad on 12 December 1982.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn; president of the republic

COMMUNIQUES REPORTING IRANIAN LOSSES 9-13 DEC

Communique No 929

JN091733 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Communique No 929 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 9 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With great enthusiasm, the forces of Saddam's glorious Al-Qadisiyah, who believe in justice and principles, continue their brave ground, sea, and air activities against the forces of the spiteful Iranian regime until it abandons its aggressive trend, expansionist ambitions, and sick dreams. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. At 1100 today, seven enemy naval targets were discovered in the Khowr-e Musa area northeast of the Arab Gulf. These targets were entering the port of Bandar-e Khomeyni. Through splendid coordination between our capable navy and bold air force, the enemy naval targets were attacked.

The successful attack resulted in destroying three naval targets at the following times: The first was destroyed at 1240; the second at 1333; and the third at 1440. All our naval units and aircraft returned safely to base, leaving the enemy targets which dared to ignore our previous warnings on fire. Columns of smoke were seen rising from them in the Gulf waters. Our forward observation posts witnessed the state of confusion which overwhelmed the enemy while it tried to evacuate its losses from the area.

2. Our forward units sighted and pounded an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing 17, destroying 1 vehicle and killing its occupants.

3. Our forward units opened fire on the enemy concentrations opposite our positions in the Maysan sector, killing 11 and destroying 1 hardware stockpile.

4. Two were killed and one observation post was destroyed east of Basra.

5. The criminal Khomeyniite clique today shelled Basra, Mandali, and Khanaqin and the village of Zurbatiyah with artillery, wounding some civilians and damaging some houses.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 December 1982

Communique No 930

JN101617 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Dec (INA) -- The Iraqi Armed Forces have continued their operations in the various sectors of the front against the Iranian enemy forces, killing 29 and destroying 11 troop assembly points and 5 hardware stockpiles. Communique No 930 issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening said that, during fighting last night and today, Iraqi forces also destroyed five observation posts and two antiaircraft machinegunes. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 930 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With high morale based on faith in God, conviction in the justice of our cause, and confidence in eventual victory over the treacherous Khomeyni forces of evil, expansion, and aggression, the triumphant Iraqi forces are continuing their bold operations at various sectors of the war front. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded enemy positions and concentrations with various weapons in front of our positions in the central sector of the front, killing 14 and destroying 8 troop assembly points, 3 hardware stockpiles, 4 observation posts, and 2 antiaircraft machineguns.

2. An enemy concentration was sighted opposite our forward units in the Maysan sector. Our units pounded it with various weapons, killing nine and destroying three infantry positions and two hardware stockpiles.

3. Six were killed and one observation post destroyed in the area east of Basra.

4. The artillery of the backward and reactionary Khomeyni clique today shelled the cities of Mandali and Khanaqin, causing some damage.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 December 1982

Communique No 931

JN111706 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA) -- The Iraqi forces killed six Iranian troops, injured a number of others, destroyed three vehicles, one of which was laden with hardware, and destroyed observation posts during the past 24 hours in the operational sectors.

Communique No 931 issued this evening by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command noted that the Iranian enemy today shelled Basra and Zurbatiyah, wounding a woman and a child and damaging a number of houses in Basra. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 931 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our capable armed forces continued their heroic operations in defense of their sacred homeland and the people's dignity against the treacherous Khomeyniite aggression. The following is the outcome of the operations which raged last night and today:

1. Our forward units pounded an enemy concentration in the central operational sector, killing five and destroying three vehicles, one of which was laden with hardware, and two observation posts.

2. One was killed and several others wounded in the Maysan operational sector.

3. Using artillery, the criminal Khomeyniite clique today shelled Basra and Zurbatiyah. The bestial shelling left one woman and one child wounded and a number of houses damaged in Basra.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 December 1982

Communique No 932

JN121640 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1612 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Dec (INA) -- Iraqi forces have attacked two enemy concentrations in front of their positions in the Basra and Maysan sectors, killing 26 and destroying 1 vehicle, 1 gun, 2 observation posts, and 1 hardware stockpile. This came in Communique No 932 issued here this evening. The communique said that the Iranian artillery today shelled the city of Mandali, causing some damage. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 932 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With increased courage, boldness, and sacrifice, our brave armed forces are continuing their just fight against the forces of the Khomeyniite clique which is indulging in evil, tyranny, and aggression. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded with various weapons an enemy concentration in front of our positions in the area east of Basra killing 15, wounding others and destroying 1 vehicle.

2. An enemy concentration was sighted in front of our units' positions in the Maysan sector. Our forces pounded it with various weapons killing nine and destroying one vehicle-borne 106 mm gun and two observation posts.

3. Two were killed and one hardware stockpile was destroyed in the central sector of the front.

4. The rancorous enemy today shelled the city of Mandali with artillery, causing some damage.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 December 1982

Communique No 933

JN131650 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA) -- The Iraqi Armed Forces have killed 31 Iranians and destroyed 5 vehicles, 1 infantry position, 3 observation posts and 1 106-mm gun.

Communique No 933 issued here this evening also stated that the Iranian artillery shelled Basra and Khanaqin today causing some damage.

The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 933 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With faith and determination based on justice, sovereignty, and dignity, the glorious Iraqis continue their heroic activities in all the operational theaters and their confrontation of the suspect Khomeyniites and their evil designs of expansion. The results of the activities yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units struck enemy concentrations opposite their positions in the central sector with their weapons, killing 23 and destroying 2 vehicles, 1 infantry position, all of whose oocupants were killed, and 2 observation posts.

2. Five were killed, and two vehicles and one 106-mm gun were destroyed in the Maysan sector. Our forward units also succeeded in towing an enemy tank left behind by the enemy in the same sector during previous battles.

3. Three were killed and one vehicle and one observation post were destroyed east of Basra.

4. The rancorous Iranian regime's artillery today shelled Basra and Khanaqin causing some damage.

[Signed] The Iraqi Armed Forces General Command, 13 December 1982

JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE CONVENES IN AMMAN

JN131242 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1220 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Amman Fu'ad Mu'aym -- live or recorded]

[Text] The higher Jordanian-Palestinian committee began its work in Amman at noon today with Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Yasir 'Arafat presiding.

Well-informed Jordanian and Palestinian source have told us that the committee will work out a plan to define future relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and, at the same time, to preserve proposed options that pertain to the final legal form of these relations. These sources added that this agreement is bound to maintain the peace momentum in the region without harming the basic rights of the Palestinian people and their sole representative, the PLO.

The higher Jordanian-Palestinian committee was founded in November to crystallize a unified stand on the future relations between the two peoples and to chart a strategy for a joint political move.

Participating in the talks on the Jordanian side were Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah and Hasan Ibrahim, minister of occupied territories affairs. As for the Palestinian side, the talks were attended by Khalil al-Wazir, Hani al-Hasan, and Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh.

CROWN PRINCE HASAN RECEIVES 'ARAFAT 13 DEC

JN131845 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, at noon today received at the Royal Hashemite Court PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his accompanying delegation. Discussions dealt with the situation in the Middle East, the situation in the occupied Arab territories, and the close fraternal relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan hosted a luncheon at the Royal Hashemite Court in honor of Yasir 'Arafat and his accompanying delegation. The luncheon was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, ministers, and the armed forces chief of staff.

ABU 'AWDAH: PLO WILL NEVER BE REPLACED

JN120736 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah has asserted that Jordan will never, under any circumstances, replace the PLO or the Palestinians. Jordan, however, will back any Palestinian trend to save the Palestinian land and identity. Abu 'Awdah stated that Jordan strongly supports the independence of the PLO and the Palestinian decision.

Abu 'Awdah explained that Jordan and the PLO have agreed on a joint move within the framework of the Fes summit resolutions, stemming from their joint faith in the one destiny, the one danger threatening them, and their joint interests. Abu 'Awdah was speaking at a seminar last night entitled, "Peace, an Illusion or a Reality," organized by the Arab University Graduates Club.

REPORTAGE ON TURKISH DEFENSE MINISTER'S VISIT

Meets Chief of Staff

TA091044 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Text] National Defense Minister Haluk Bayulken, who is in Amman, the capital of Jordan, on an official visit, has begun his contacts. Bayulken met this morning with Lieutenant General ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Bayulken, who is also expected to meet with the Jordanian prime minister, Mudar Badran, will be received later by Crown Prince Hasan. Bayulken will also visit the military installations in Amman and its vicinity. Bayulken will leave Amman for the port of 'Aqabah tomorrow and visit military installations there.

Joint defense issues and cooperation in the field of defense industry are being discussed during Bayulken's Amman contacts.

Meets With Prince Hasan

JN091428 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Excerpt] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received in his office at the Royal Hashemite Court this morning Umit Haluk Bayulken, Turkish minister of national defense, and his delegation. The Turkish minister conveyed to his highness greetings from Turkish President Kenan Evren to His Majesty King Husayn. During the meeting, the two sides discussed developments in the region and the dangers that threaten it.

Departs 12 Dec

JN121508 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Turkish Defense Minister Umit Haluk Bayulken and his delegation left Amman this morning following a visit of several days to Jordan during which he met with Prince Hasan, the regent; Mudar Badran, the prime minister and defense minister; and Staff Lieutenant General ash-Sharif Zayid ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the armed forces. He also visited a number of military and cultural centers in Jordan.

In a press statement, the Turkish minister expressed his admiration for Jordan's achievements in various fields under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn.

INTERIOR MINISTER LEAVES FOR MOROCCO CONFERENCE

JN111450 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] Jordanian Interior Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat this morning left Amman for Morocco at the head of a Jordanian delegation to attend the first session of the Arab interior ministers council. He told a PETRA correspondent that the major topics on the council's agenda are the Arab security strategy and the field study that has been prepared by the Arab organization of social defense in order to discuss the negative effects of the eviction and displacement operations being practiced by the Zionist enemy in the occupied Arab territories.

SOVIET RED CROSS OFFICIAL LEAVES 13 DECEMBER

JN131905 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Dr Baltiysky, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Union of Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent of the USSR, has denounced the inhumane practices and the oppresive measures by the Israeli occupation forces against the Arab inhabitants in the occupied Arab territories and against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

Dr Baltiysky called for the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon without any preconditions. He said that the USSR Government and people have expressed their denunciation of the presence of the Israeli fores in Lebanon on many occasions.

In an interview with PETRA, Dr Baltiysky reiterated that if a just and comprehensive peace is to be established in the Middle East, the Israeli forces must withdraw from the Arab territories they occupied as a result of the 1967 war. He added that the USSR supports the Fes summit resolutions and the Arab peace plan which was adopted by the summit. Dr Baltiysky left Amman this evening.

AMMAN TELEVISION REPORTS NEW RELAY OPERATION

JN071933 [Editorial Report] Amman Domestic Service in Arabic at 1800 GMT on 7 December carried the following announcement:

"We welcome our viewers in northern occupied Palestine, southern Syria, Al-Biqa' and southern Lebanon which are now being covered by our transmission since the new relay station started operation. The foreign program can be received on channel 11 and the Arabic program on channel 9."

GOVERNMENT CRITICIZES DISPUTANT PARTIES' DEMANDS

NC131740 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] At noon today, President Amin al-Jumayyil chaired a meeting of the political committee of the higher liaison commission of the multinational force. The meeting was attended by the ambassadors of the states participating in the force and a team of Lebanese and UN officers.

During the meeting, President al-Jumayyil drew attention to the gravity of the deteriorating security situations in the mountain and the north, affirming the need for quick action to put an end to them.

President al-Jumayyil affirmed that the government is striving with all means to start negotiations on a quick Israeli pullout from the mountain area as part of a single and comprehensive plan for pullouts so that the Lebanese Army will be able to control the situation there with the help of the multinational force.

Informed sources have stated that the demands of the two disputant parties in the mountain, which have been officially conveyed to the government, look as if one hand [yadan wahiditan nassatha] has drafted them. The government considers this a serious matter, because it indicates a lack of prudence that will lead the homeland to serious pitfalls.

AL-JUMAYYIL, CALLAGHAN DISCUSS UNIFIL MISSION

NC131240 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil today discussed the situation of the UN forces in southern Lebanon with UNIFIL commander General William Callaghan. It has been noticed that some actions have taken place in the south aimed at showing UNIFIL's presence as ineffective. However, Lebanon supports the continued presence of UNIFIL, because their presence reflects the will and resolutions of the UN Security Council.

President al-Jumayyil's meeting with General Callaghan was attended by National Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri and Army Commander General Ibrahim Tannus.

After the meeting, General Callaghan said in reply to a question that the discussion dealt with the situation of the UN forces and the future possibilities. He added: I think it is too early now to talk about the future tasks of UNIFIL. We must await the completion of solutions which are being worked out for the Lebanese crisis.

Some harassment of UNIFIL has recently been noticed.

ABU FADIL CALLS FOR NATIONAL SALVATION FRONT

NC101535 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1330 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Munir Abu Fadil has called for the establishment of a front for the salvation of the republic, in which all political, economic and unionist leaderships would be represented, to work in support of the legitimacy and implementation of national reconciliation.

Abu Fadil affirmed that the goal of forming this front is to fight all kinds of partition and to work toward building a new Lebanon in which jobs are not connected with a sect, the sovereignty of the legitimate authority is spread throughout the homeland, and free education, medical services and welfare for the old are guaranteed.

SYRIANS ARREST FATAH MEMBERS IN AL-BIQA'

NC131542 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Reports from Al-Biqa' say that the Syrian authorities have launched a wide-scale arrest campaign against Palestinians belonging to Fatah. These measures have come in the wake of Yasir 'Arafat's rapprochement with Jordan and Egypt.

SPOKESMAN REVIEWS SALIM-PYM TALKS IN LONDON

NC101315 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim has sent reports from London to the Foreign Ministry. These reports were conveyed to President Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan. The reports contain the information which was made available to Minister Salim in London. In this framework, Prime Minister al-Wazzan met with acting Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Sulh at noon today.

Regarding the results of Minister Salim's discussions in London, a spokesman for the Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Ministry today said that during his meeting with his British counterpart Francis Pym, Minister Salim explained all aspects of the situation in Lebanon. He stressed that all the Lebanese are fused in the sincere national crucible and that the leadership of the president of the republic, his courage and his ideas about the future will bring good results.

The foreign minister then explained the great danger to which Lebanon is exposed as a result of the occupations, particularly the Israeli occupation and Israel's impossible conditions and the actions of all the non-Lebanese forces which are endangering the Lebanese existence.

Minister Salim demanded that Britain shoulder its historical responsibilities in light of its position in the world and participate effectively in the political efforts to save Lebanon. Salim said Britain's participation in the multinational force, even in a symbolic way, has important political significance. This would strengthen Lebanon's policy, independence and unity.

Secretary Pym has shown a full understanding of the explanation given by his Lebanese counterpart regarding the situation in Lebanon. He emphasized his country's sympathy and its firm and clear stand on the side of Lebanon, its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

He expressed concern over Israel's policy. He said his country will spare no effort in continuing its support for Lebanon within the framework of the European group. Britain, he said, insists on the immediate withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon. Britain, he added, is carefully studying Lebanon's request to participate in the multinational force.

SALIM HOLDS LONDON NEWS CONFERENCE 10 DEC

For Cairo MENA and Beirut Radio accounts of the visit of Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim to London for talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, see the United Kingdom section of the 13 December Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

MINISTER SALIM MEETS WITH FRANCE'S CHEYSSON

For Paris and Beirut Domestic Service coverage of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim's talks with French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson on French friendship and support for Lebanon, and an announcement by Cheysson that France will increase the strength of its troop contingent in Lebanon, see the France section of the 13 December Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

JUNBLATT, HAMADAH LEAVE FOR EUROPE 12 DEC

NC121024 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Walid Junblatt and former Minister Marwan Hamadah left for Europe today on a private visit during which they will meet with a number of officials in some European countries.

'CAUTIOUS CALM' PREVAILS IN 'ALAYH, TRIPOLI 14 DEC

NC140855 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Cautious calm prevails in the 'Alayh area after the curfew was lifted as of 0700 today and the international highway was reopened, but travel remains very precarious.

A meeting was held last night among the parties concerned at the initiative of Shaykh Fadlallah Talhuq. It was agreed: 1) to cease fire; 2) to remove the armed presence on the roads. It was agreed to hold a meeting tomorrow under the chairmanship of Governor of Jabal Lubnan Fadil Hamwiyah in B'abda Government House to be attended by representatives of both various functionaries and of the 'Alayh and upper Al-Matn areas to put the final touches to the decisions made to put an end to the deteriorating situation in the area.

The town of 'Alayh is gradually resuming activity as of this morning after banks and some businesses reopened. Noticeably, crowds are seen at bakeries.

In the Ash-Shuf area, the implementation of the agreement for which bases were drawn up last Sunday in Bayt ad-Din Government House and which led to an atmosphere of calm and active traffic, began yesterday.

In Tripoli, there was a limited clash last night in the Bab at-Tabbanah and Ba'l Mushin areas. Security reports say there was an explosion in the Gruppi cafe but no casualties were reported. Security sources say that as of this morning no significant incident has been reported and that a state of cautious calm prevails in the city.

ISRAELI CUSTOMS AGENT WOUNDED IN AN-NAQURAH

NC131824 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] An Israeli soldier was wounded when his vehicle ran over a mine east of the town of Hasbayya in southern Lebanon. This afternoon, an explosion occurred on an Israeli bus at the border crossing point in An-Naqurah, wounding an Israeli customs agent. The Israeli forces sealed off the area and began a search operation.

ARMED STRUGGLE ORGANIZATION ON IDF ATTACK

JN130926 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] The Armed Struggle Organization [Munazzamat al-Kifah al-Musallah] in Beirut has issued a statement claiming responsibility for the attack yesterday on an Israeli patrol near An-Nabatiyah. The attack, according to the organization, left an Israeli officer dead and six other soldiers wounded.

VOL REPORTS 350 IRANIANS ARRIVE IN BA'LABAKK

NC101212 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] A group of Iranian revolution guards has arrived in Ba'labakk. The group consists of about 350 persons equipped with personal arms, DSHK guns, jeeps, and large transport vehicles. The group entered Lebanon via the Homs-Al-Qa' road and took its position near Al-Hirmil. It was learned that this group will join the Iranian forces in Ba'labakk which have taken up several positions in the Franji building along the Ras al-'Ayn and Marjat Ras al-'Ayn road.

According to reports from Ba'labakk, sharp differences have broken out between Husayn al-Musawi's group and the Iranian group led by Ash-Shaykh Subhi at-Tafaiyli. These differences are the result of the recent attacks against the official institutions and the clashes between the Lebanese Army and the Iranian revolution guards in Ba'labakk.

SHAMIR COMMENTS ON ARGENTINA, URUGUAY TRIP

TA112032 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] Tomorrow, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is leaving for official visits to Argentina and Uruguay. In both countries the foreign minister will meet with the leaders of the regimes, and in Argentina he will meet several times with the Jewish community there, which numbers more than 400,000 Jews. In Uruguay, a congress of Israel's ambassadors in Latin American countries will be held. Foreign Minister Shamir sees nothing wrong in the fact that he is visiting countries that are ruled by the military, such as Uruguay and Argentina. Shamir says Israel is interested in ties with the world's nations without any connection with their internal regimes. On the eve of the foreign minister's departure for Argentina, our political correspondent Yorman Ronen spoke with him.

[Begin videotape] [Question] Mr Shamir, over the last few years several thousand Jews have disappeared in Argentina. Some of them were put in detention camps and have been lost without a trace. Do you intend to work to locate these Jews, some of whose families have settled in Israel?

[Answer] This is a very sensitive subject, and one close to my heart. I can say this. I will do my best.

[Question] Should the families of those who are missing hope for some sort of news when you return from Argentina?

[Answer] I do not want to raise hopes, but I repeat: I will do my best.

[Question] Mr Shamir, how would you describe the purpose of your visits to Argentina and Uruguay? Can we expect any change in Israel's relations with those two countries after your visit?

[Answer] I think the visit will contribute to strengthening the ties and cooperation to our benefit and also to the countries I am visiting.

[Question] In conclusion, Mr Shamir, this week you were severly criticized because of your speech to the Zionist congress delegates in which you were asked why we have a right to Eretz Yisra'el and you answered: Just because. Was that a slip of the tongue? Do you regret that remark?

[Answer] I do not regret it at all and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to explain my remark. I spoke to the Zionist congress delegates and members of the foreign Herut movement. I commented on the great strength of Jewish education in the Diaspora. Among other things, I said that one of the objectives of education should be to instill in every young Jew throughout the world the profound awareness that Eretz Yisra'el belongs to the Jewish nation and to educate him so this idea will be so natural and obvious to him that when he is asked, why Eretz Yisra'el, he will say: Just because; without explanation, without reasons, as a French youth, when asked why France belongs to the French people, will answer.

[Question] If this is so, do you think that the slogan of "just because" is, in fact, more than a slogan.

[Answer] This is not a slogan. This is the reality existing for every nation that is rooted in its soil, and this must also be the case in our nation.

[Question] Is the reference to Greater Eretz Yisra'el?

[Answer] The reference is to Eretz Yisra'el. [end videotape]

Departs 12 December

TA120558 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Let us go over to Ben-Gurion Airport, where Foreign Minister Shamir is now leaving for an official visit to Argentina and Uruguay. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports:

[Begin Ben-'Ami recording] Shamir will meet with Argentina's and Uruguay's presidents and foreign ministers. This will be a reciprocal visit for the one made by his Uruguay counterpart to Israel in April 1982. The minister will also meet with the Jewish communities in both countries. About 1/2 million Jews live in Argentina. The intention of the visit is to strengthen relations with the Central and South American countries whose support for Israel was guaranteed in the past but which showed no sympathy for the Israeli cause during the Lebanese war. Moreover, the awakening of Arab organizations in this region has recently been noted and Shamir will discuss ways to neutralize this. The foreign minister will meet with Israel's ambassadors in South America for briefings. This visit is another in a chain of visits made by the foreign minister to Costa Rica a few weeks ago and by the defense minister to Honduras last week. The head of the foreign minister's office, the heads of the Latin America Department of the Foreign Ministry, and the Foreign Ministry's spokesman are accompanying the foreign minister on his trip. [end recording]

This morning, our correspondent Gad Shimron asked for the foreign minister's reaction to criticism from various circles over his visit to countries headed by military regimes.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] Our policy is to maintain good relations as much as possible with all countries of the world, regardless of their regime. A few weeks ago I visited Costa Rica. A year before this I visited Mexico and Colombia. Before these visits, I was also in Ecuador and the Dominican Republic. Each of these countries has its special character and regime.

[Shimron] Shamir promised to do everything within his power to raise the issue of the Jews who have disappeared in Argentina in recent years. [end recording]

Labor Condemns Visit

TA122025 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] The Labor Party's reactions team today condemned Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's visit to Argentina and Uruguay, arguing that those countries are governed by notorious military regimes. Shamir left this morning for Argentina and will arrive there tomorrow. Our political correspondent Yoram Ronen reports that on the eve of Shamir's departure, he met with a delegation of Jewish immigrants from Argentina, who handed him a list of 30 Jews who disappeared and whose fates are unknown. Shamir promised the delegation that he would appeal to the regime's leaders about the missing people.

SHAMIR ARRIVES IN ARGENTINA, MAKES STATEMENT

For reportage on the official 3-day visit of Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to Argentina, including reports on his meetings and news conference, see the Argentina section of the 13 December Latin America DAILT REPORT and subsequent issues.

PRESS ON SHARON, SHAMIR TRIPS, LEBANON 13 DEC

TA131033 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0435 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] 'AL HAMISHMAR derides Foreign Minister Shamir's trip to Argentina saying that the Likud ministers have lately demonstrated unusual eagerness to discover the South American Continent, but selectively so, as they have chosen countries with tyrannical regimes which trample human rights. It is both possible and necessary to maintain diplomatic relations with all countries prepared for this, but Israel need not necessarily create the image of a country which holds special contacts with countries the likes of Argentina. Shamir's current trip has no connection to Israel's real interests. If the Likud government behaved according to the rules of national pride, it would have preceded the visit with the minimal condition of the release of the kidnapped Jews and their immigration to Israel. However, Shamir, whose heart is in this matter, will drink champagne with the tyrants and will not hear the outcry of the jailed.

HATZOFE sharply criticizes the leftists who attacked the foreign minister's visit to Argentina. It is no secret that most countries around the world today are ruled by tyrants. Key U.S. Administration officials visit Moscow, whose regime is far from being democratic. Democracies in Western Europe maintain tight relations with Al-Qadhdhafi's regime in Libya without examining the nature of the regime, while the foreign minister's visit to Argentina carries special significance both due to the large Jewish community there, and due to the special interest Israel has in promoting its relations with the South American countries. It is to be hoped that Shamir's visit will be successful.

THE JERUSALEM POST addresses itself to another matter connected with Yitzhaq Shamir: Shamir's claim that the response to those who question our right to Eretz Yisra'el should be: Because. The paper says this statement contradicts at least the contents of UN Security Council Resolution 242 which bans the forceful attainment of territories. Israel, indeed, has the right to demand border modifications, but this should be done through negotiations. It cannot be assumed that such a statement by Shamir will eliminate the danger of a binational state according to the concept of autonomy which has been accepted by the government. Illogical magic slogans cannot replace well-considered, coolheaded analysis, even if the problem is unpleasant.

HA'ARETZ asks whether it is absolutely necessary for the IDF to remain in the Ash-Shuf mountains to try and separate the Christian and Druze opponents. Militarily speaking, it is unnecessary. It is hard to believe that the agreement reached between the parties under the IDF's auspices yesterday will guarantee calm. However, due to the contradictory commitments to the Maronites on the one hand and to the Druze on the other, we will not be able to get out of the Ash-Shuf mountains before we make sure that no vacuum develops there. Therefore, the solution is a multinational force which will take the IDF's place.

'SOURCES' SUPPORT LEBANON TALKS IN EUROPE

TA131148 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Dec 82 p 1

[Report by Yehuda Litani]

[Text] Political sources yesterday noted that the U.S. proposal (which has not yet been announced officially) that negotiations between Israel and Lebanon be conducted in a European capital, is more serious and perhaps even more reasonable than the notion of "shuttles" between Jerusalem and Beirut by the U.S. mediators.

According to these sources, there is a chance the Israeli Cabinet may agree to hold the talks in Europe if this is officially proposed by the Americans. In contrast, other elements in Jerusalem noted yesterday that the proposal was "illogical and unreasonable," and that the only place to conduct the talks was in this region proper, in Israel and Lebanon.

Reacting to the proposed shuttles, Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir commented yesterday: "The notion of shuttles does not look good to me at all because Israel insists on direct negotiations between us and Lebanon. The issue of direct negotiations by authorized representatives of both countries was concluded with the agreement of the Lebanese and U.S. Governments and there is no sense in going back on that agreement.

"The idea of shuttles was raised in the distant past whereas today, Israel speaks face-to-face with the Arab countries, in direct rather than indirect talks. We welcome the participation of the United States in these negotiations, but only as a partner to direct negotiations, rather than as an indirect mediator, which would mean the negotiations no longer exist. We believe that the best venue for the talks is in both capitals: Jerusalem and Beirut," Ben-Me'ir stated.

Ambassador Habib is scheduled to arrive in Israel on Wednesday and it is assumed that he will be bringing along new ideas to advance the negotiations. On Thursday, he will confer with the prime minister, the defense minister, the deputy foreign minister, and the Foreign Ministry's director general. At the Cabinet session yesterday, Prime Minister Menahem Begin said that any proposal made by Habib would be discussed in the Cabinet meeting next Sunday.

Political elements in Jerusalem predict that new U.S. proposals, such as the notion of shuttles or of holding the talks in Europe, would run into fierce opposition from Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon. According to these elements, Sharon was bitterly humiliated during his visit to the United States when he was not summouned for talks with administration heads and he will apparently try to pay the Americans back in the same manner.

BEN-ME'IR ON LEBANON TALKS, U.S. AGREEMENT

TA131540 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Dec 82

["Midday Newsreel" discussion with Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir, political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, and announcer 'Amiqam Rothman as moderator, in the Knesset studio -- live]

[Excerpt] [Rothman] A shuttle or direct negotiations, Jerusalem and Beirut, Ma'ale Hahamisha and Khaldah, or Geneva perhaps. These are some of the question marks even before the talks with Lebanon begin.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir is in the Knesset studio now, seated together with our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer. Let us perhaps open with the war lessons issue serving as a bargaining chip, or alternatively, as a topic for discussion between us and the United States. Go ahead, Shim'on Schiffer.

[Schiffer] Since 'Amiqam suggested the issue of war lessons, let us start with it. Reports emanating from Washington say that the U.S. secretary of defense refuses to sign an agreement initialled here between delegations from the Pentagon and the Israeli Defense Ministry. In your opinion, will this affair conclude with Israel drawing the lessons by itself and the United States not being a partner to this?

[Ben-Me'ir] What is clear, first and foremost, is that Israel will draw and has constantly drawn its lessons as necessary. We surely expressed a willingness to share the lessons-drawing process with the United States, as called for in relations between allies. The defense minister invited to Israel a delegation of U.S. military and other experts. They indeed visited Israel. So, Israel has continually manifested good will on this issue. We want to act on it in cooperation with the United States, to share the process with them. Naturally, this depends on signing an agreement. This has always been customary, regarding the two parties drawing oommon lessons. I very much hope that the United States will conclude this affair favorably. At any event, it is clear that this is suggested by Israel on behalf of the United States and not the other way around.

[Schiffer] On the Lebanese issue -- even before Philip Habib reached the region, reliable reports had already been released in the United States that he intend to suggest a new method for conducting the negotiations which have not yet started, a method of shuttling between Jerusalem and Beirut, between Jerusalem, Beirut, and Damascus, or even talks in Europe, whose aim is to overcome this obstacle of not holding the talks in the two capitals. What is your stand on this issue?

[Ben-Me'ir] As regards the shuttling issue, I have made my opinion clear. This technique does not seem right to me at all. We are talking of direct negotiations between Israel and Lebanon in order to reach an agreement between the two countries. I know it is acceptable to the United States -- I clearly heard this from Mr Habib and U.S. representatives -- that there should be a signed agreement between Israel and Lebanon regarding the security arrangements. There can be different views regarding the nature of the agreement and this should be clarified through negotiations. We also have Lebanon's consent to open direct negotiations with us, headed by authorized civilian personages or elements, as well as the Israeli Government's consent to this. Shuttling is a past phenomenon practiced before 1977. With Egypt, too, we talked directly and reached what we reached. Whoever wants to reach a good agreement between two parties who have to live with this agreement should aspire to direct negotiations. We heartily welcome the United States' participation in these talks, but I do not think we need them for some sort of indirect mediation. We need direct talks.

[Schiffer] Talks in Europe, in a neutral place -- what is your opinion?

[Ben-Me'ir] Look, the Israeli Government has its position. We suggested that the talks take place in the two capitals. I think this is surely the most effective thing to do. The capitals are close to each other and each country's delegation can speedily receive instructions from the political levels in charge.

We see no reason why the talks cannot be conducted in the two capitals. However, Mr Habib will arrive on Thursday, will meet with the prime minister -- and he surely has something to offer -- and I think we will hear his suggestions. The prime minister will surely raise them in the Cabinet meeting on Sunday for discussion. We will then address ourselves to the suggestions as they are put to us.

[Schiffer] Mr Ben-Me'ir, why insist -- should we insist, in your opinion -- on holding the talks in the capitals?

[Ben-Me'ir] First, this is not a matter of insisting. We cannot lend a hand to a boycott of Jerusalem. I think that Jerusalem is not a marginal matter for us, not only because of the meaning of Jerusalem itself, but also precisely because we know there is a desire, to one extent or another, in the international community, to cast doubt on Jerusalem as Israel's capital. It is exactly for this reason that we should be particular about this issue, that there be no boycott of Jerusalem, that there cannot be talks in any place other than Jerusalem. Therefore, this is not insistence but a reasonable proposal that the talks be held in the two capitals. However, I repeat, if such a proposal is raised by Habib, let us wait: He will arrive here in 2 or 3 days, the prime minister will hear Habib's proposals, and will surely bring them to the Cabinet for discussion.

[Schiffer] Your records indicate you will not object to talks in a neutral place, since in the past such talks have occurred, between Israel and Egypt as well: The Leeds talks, the autonomy talks in Holland, for example.

[Ben-Me'ir] First, you certainly cannot understand this from my remarks. I did not say this at all. I said that if Mr Habib raises this suggestion, the prime minister will surely bring this to the Cabinet for discussion. I repeat what I said a minute ago: I think that the proper places to hold the talks are Jerusalem and Beirut, the two capitals. This is convenient. It is possible to receive guidelines from the political echelon and examine things here. This is the position of the Israeli Government and I certainly support it. I only say that if there are new proposals from the United States, we, as is our custom with anything else, will consider them very seriously. The prime minister will consider them and bring them to the Cabinet for consideration. You are right that there are past examples of talks between countries in a third country. However, whether these instances suit the present case or not -- this we will have to see when a proposal is raised and when it is discussed in the Cabinet. Israel's proposal, unchanged as of now -- to hold the talks in the two capitals -- is undoubtedly the most logical, simple, and effective proposal.

[Rothman] As regards examples, one can add San Remo, Lucarno, Yalta, Potsdam, and other places, places which, after all, were not capitals and in which peace talks were conducted in the past. There is a precedent.

[Ben-Me'ir] As I said, there are certainly precedents to many talks between countries in a third country, in neutral locations as it is called. I do not deny these examples. However, each example should be applied to the conditions of the location in hand, to the correct context and background. One should also consider the background. We must not forget that the talks were then held in those locations because one country or another refused to hold the talks in the other country's capital.

In our particular case, we have the special issue of a refusal to conduct talks in Jerusalem and we will not, nor should we, put up with a sort of boycott of Jerusalem. However, let us live and see what Mr Habib proposes, and we will discuss matters accordingly.

'INFORMED SOURCE' SAYS SYRIA COOL ON WITHDRAWAL

TA140719 Jerusalem THE JERSUALEM POST in English 14 Dec 82 p 1

[News analysis by Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Even if the Governments of Israel and Lebanon should reach agreement on security arrangements in southern Lebanon, an IDF withdrawal from the present lines could still be remote, according to an informed source in Jersualem. This is because Syria shows no signs of wanting to evacuate its occupation force.

The source said that the Soviet Union has advised Damascus not to quit Lebanon, lest the Syrian departure be interpreted as yet another feather in the American cap after the eviction of the Palestine Liberation Organization from southern Lebanon and Beirut.

In the past, the source said, American officials had reported in Jerusalem that Damascus had expressed the desire to bring its soldiers home as soon as possible. More recently, however, the U.S. officials reported that the Syrians now showed no signs of wanting to shift their troops.

The source downplayed Israeli declarations of three and four months ago to the effect that the presence of IDF artillery within 30 kilometres of Damascus was too much of a threat for Syria to live with. The Israeli assumption behind those declarations was that in order to get the IDF out of range once again, the Syrians would be anxious to go through with a parallel withdrawal.

Asked what other arguments could be more effective in making the Syrian Government change its mind, the source said: "Let's hope there'll be a breakthrough somehow."

One Middle East expert told THE JERUSALEM POST that the Syrian Government was so dependent on the Soviet Union now that it did not object to following Soviet instructions and staying put in Lebanon. The Soviet Union was replacing all the weapons lost in the Lebanese fighting with newer and more modern equipment, while Soviet technical experts were studying the lessons of the campaign on the spot, to help Syria fare better in any future ground or air clash with the IDF.

Regarding the delay in the start of talks between Lebanon and Israel, this expert said that the most effective pressure on President Amin al-Jumayyil to reach an arrangement would come from his own Phalange lieutenants rather than from the U.S.

Influential Phalange figures in contact with Israelis say that the stabilization of Lebanon is their most urgent priority and they see the agreement on security arrangements in the south as a crucial step. The Phalange has sustained more casualties than it can afford over the past six or seven years, these figures say, and hence it is pressing for a de facto peace.

Phalange figures are urging Al-Jumayyil to put a new law through parliament whereby all foreign aid for reconstruction must be piped solely through government channels.

This would prevent a number of Arab countries earmarking reconstruction and development grants for Palestinian residents, or for local Sunni, Shi'ite and Druze communities:

A draft law along these lines is due to be tabled in the Lebanese Parliament in the next few days, THE POST was told.

LOCAL CEASE-FIRE REACHED IN DRUZE-CHRISTIAN AREA

TA131449 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1424 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Another agreement [heskem] was achieved today between the Druze and Christians in Lebanon in an attempt to stop further clashes. The main points of this agreement are: removing the roadblocks set by both sides in the areas of 'Alayh and Bhamdun, and joint patrols for keeping the region quiet.

Our correspondent in Lebanon Alon Disqin notes that the agreement was reached after 1 and ½ days of negotiations mediated by senior IDF officers. This agreement joins the one reached yesterday between the sides in the town of Bayt ad-Din.

EXCHANGES OF FIRE IN ASH-SHUF REPORTED 13 DEC

TA131832 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1815 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Southern Lebanon, 13 Dec (ITIM) -- Today too, there were exchanges of fire in the Ash-Shuf hills between the Christians and Druze.

The ITIM correspondent in the north reports that the agreement signed in the hamlet of Bayt ad-Din on Sunday morning was kept for a few hours, but in the early hours of the morning, exchanges of fire had already begun in the villages near 'Alayh and Bhamdun. Military sources in 'Alayh have said that the exchanges of fire that occurred today should not be regarded as a resumption of fighting, because this was a question of the most limited firing that was caused by extremist offshoots interested in refanning the flames.

The Government of Lebanon today published the figures for casualties in the Ash-Shuf hills fighting: 19 killed and 27 wounded. However, Druze notables have said that the number of victims is much larger, because there are many missing from both sides who have apparently been kidnapped and murdered.

The IDF continues to demonstrate a reinforced presence in the Ash-Shuf hills in order to prevent a worsening of the fighting.

JOINT COMMITTEE IN ASH-SHUF TO TRY FOR PEACE

TA131911 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] A joint committee of Druze, Christians, and the IDF convened yesterday and today in 'Alayh and discussed the ways to restore peace in the Ash-Shuf mountains. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the committee decided to establish a body composed of representatives of the two sects and the IDF, which will convene at least once a week or following an irregular incident. It was also decided to hold joint patrols in all villages.

HA'ARETZ ON WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES FROM LEBANON

TA101835 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Dec 82 pp 13, 14

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Actually, Who Wants To Get Out of Lebanon?"]

[Text] Although everybody is talking about the need for a quick withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, it seems that Israel and Syria, and maybe even the Lebanese Government, are debating whether a withdrawal under the present circumstances might not be more harmful than beneficial to them. In each of these capitals, people are rethinking the withdrawal from Lebanon.

Therefore, there is a sneaking suspicion that we have resorted to the "Jerusalem trick" on purpose in order to stall the talks. The same "trick" was used in the autonomy negotiations, and the talks were halted. The method of leaking was similar as well: The impression created in the public was that the talks have to do with the fate of Jerusalem and not with security arrangements in southern Lebanon. With all due respect to the honor of Jerusalem, which is all under our control, the use of the "Jerusalem trick" in every negotiations, on any subject, can be torpedoed.

What is bothering Israel about the quick withdrawal? First of all, the man who sets the trends and pace of the negotiations is Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, not Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and not even Prime Minister Menahem Begin. How many times did Sharon try to cancel and offset moderate promises given by the Foreign Ministry regarding the negotiations? Sharon and his people are reducing Israel's options in the negotiations to the minimum. Things have reached such a stage that his aide Abrasha Tamir, even tried to prevent discussions inside the IDF about other options regarding Lebanon. In this way, he apparently wanted to prevent the government from hearing the detailed possibilities for a settlement.

Sharon does not want to withdraw from Lebanon before achieving a few basic conditions which will justify the big war with its many victims and expenses; and the more "expensive" the war seems to the public, the more Sharon will insist on his maximal demands. He is afraid that an untimely withdrawal will justify the criticism of him; therefore, he talks a lot about the need for strong nerves and patience regarding our presence in Lebanon. After we were forced to give up, for the time being, a peace treaty with Lebanon, the next goal is "normalization" with Lebanon and the withdrawal of the Syrian Army and the terrorists associated with it. For him, reaching security arrangements in southern Lebanon is not a big enough achievement, because in order to achieve this goal there was no need to expand the war that much and to lose so many soldiers.

Given this maze, a second thought has arisen that perhaps we should not be so quick to withdraw, that perhaps it would be better to bring about a de facto division of Lebanon and remain in the south until the other side comes around. Those making this claim explain that withdrawing too early will destroy some of the military advantages Israel now has, and even some it had before the war. For instance, it is clear that after the withdrawal, the Lebanese Government will slowly work to eventually push Major Haddad out of the south. He will not be courtmartialed, as Bashir al-Jumayyil promised to do, but he will be pushed out eventually through a "Lebanese solution," as the Americans explain. This not only means Haddad's removal but also the absorption of his militiamen and the end to the enclaves along Israel's border.

The Lebanese Government will work for this with all its might because it will not want to leave such a serious means of pressure in Israel's hands. This tool can be used by Israel as well as by opposition elements inside Lebanon, such as Camille *Sham'un and his group, which lately have been showing a growing interest in* Major Haddad and the south.

As long as we are deployed along our present lines, Israel has an important military and intelligence advantage. We make reconnaissance flights as we wish, we sit on the mountain tops and maintain warning stations as we want, surveying Syria in depth. The agreement that will come in return for the withdrawal will probably be similar in certain respects to what was done in the Sinai: Everybody will want Israel to take its men off Jabal al-Barukh, for instance. Again it will be suggested that, instead of the IDF electronic station, a U.S. warning station be established there, perhaps only temporarily. As for the reconnaissance flights, the Lebanese will say they cannot allow such a blow to their airspace, just as Egypt does not agree to us flying over its territory. This will also be solved temporarily, but it will be a different solution from what we had before the war and now.

To this should be added the claim that the deadends in the autonomy talks and the Reagan initiative, and in the negotiations on the withdrawal from Lebanon, are nothing but games for the benefit of those desiring to maintain the settlement and annexation momentum in Judaea and Samaria. This freeze gives more time for action in the territories. The question should be asked as to whether the Israeli public will swallow a prolonged IDF stay in Lebanon, with all its implications, including more casualties and even the possibility of a clash with the Syrian Army, and whether Washington will accept it with restraint.

Ironically enough, the Lebanese Government, which would really like to rid itself of all foreign forces stationed in its country, is afraid of too quick a withdrawal which will leave a vacuum that it will be unable to fill alone. This was one of the conclusions of the U.S. military experts' committee, which said that it will be many months yet before the Lebanese Army can fill the vacuum that will be created and take the place of all the withdrawing forces and armies. The fear is that an immediate IDF withdrawal from the Ash-Shuf mountains will encourage a new civil war in the area which will again draw subversive elements from the outside. Amin al-Jumayyil hopes to fill this vacuum with the multinational force, and until he can secure this he will be moderate in his pressure for the withdrawal of the IDF and the Syrian Army. On the other hand, it is getting more and more difficult for him to withstand the pressure Israel is putting on him, whether through the Phalange or through warnings that it will allow Haddad to control all of southern Lebanon and establish something of an independent region there.

People who visited Damascus recently and spoke to high-ranking officials there say the Syrians are also rethinking their withdrawal from Lebanon. This is based on the fact that Syria does not have much to lose from the present situation and might even gain something by not withdrawing from Lebanon. Those U.S. experts who claimed that the Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon is assured, based their optimistic evaluation on the fact that Syria, above all, is interested in pushing the danger of the IDF away from Damascus, and wants to extract itself from its bad military deployment in Lebanon. But while Damascus can rely on the fact that it will continue to influence Lebanon due to its nearby presence -- albeit across the border -- Israel, after the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon, will lose its influence in a country where Amin al-Jumayyil is currently the president.

The Syrians, who oppose the withdrawal, claim that Israel will not dare attack Damascus for fear of a confrontation with the Soviet Union, and that the United States will prevent this. On the other hand, the IDF's long stay in Lebanon will cause tense relations between Israel and the United States. The more Israel extends its stay in Lebanon, the more it will get entangled in local disputes, like the Syrians before it. Even if it tries to avoid it with all its might, the dispute with the Lebanese Government will be unavoidable, and the number of casualties among its soldiers will increase.

If, at the beginning of the events in Lebanon, one could detect that Damascus and Washington were getting closer because of Syria's wish to stop Israel and its army, then after the publication of the Reagan intiative, another factor came up: Damascus sees the Reagan initiative as another, separate peace plan, in the style of Camp David. The success of this initiative will mean a rift between Jordan and the Arab world, as happened with Egypt before, and greater isolation of Syria against Israel. Therefore, Syria is not interested in accelerating this process by prematurely withdrawing from Lebanon. The continuation of the present situation also insures, according to the Syrians who are against the withdrawal, that Amin al-Jumayyil not only will not sign a peace agreement with Israel, but will also not be dragged into a normalization agreement.

These, and other reasons, are part of the elements delaying the negotiations and raising questions over the length of the IDF's stay in Lebanon. To his collegues in the Cabinet, Sharon says that he is very optimistic about the results of the negotiations. It is difficult to see what this optimism is based upon.

BURG CRITICIZES EGYPTIAN CONDITION FOR TALKS

TA131250 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1140 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Minister Yosef Burg describes as an excuse Egypt's demand [derishat] that the PLO and other countries be incorporated in the peace negotiations. The Egyptian foreign minister said that his country will not resume the negotiations if this condition is not met. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer asked for Burg's reaction to the Egyptian foreign minister's remarks.

[Begin recording] [Burg] I can say precisely that they did not mean this, on the contrary, in the joint letter by As-Sadat and by Mr Menahem Begin to President Carter, the two parties undertook, continuously and in good faith (last five words in English and translated immediately after] to continue the peace talks. The raising of such conditions which have not even been mentioned [sentence as heard]. It was said that Jordan can participate in the talks and this would please us. I have expressed this idea on a number of occasions and have extended the invitation to Jordan. However, to turn this into a condition -- for one reason or another, the reason this time being that we are in Lebanon, that we had to clear and cleanse southern Lebanon in order to guarantee the security and life of the Israeli citizens in northern Israel -- and to wait until Jordan comes to the talks -- why was this not stated at Camp David?

[Schiffer] Perhaps, Dr Burg, these conditions raised by Egypt and everything that is or is not happening in Israeli-Egyptian relations now, justify all the remarks by those who rejected the peace treaty, claiming that Egypt would receive the territory and would later refuse to continue the peace process.

[Answer] We are not in the Soviet Union where history can be written and rewritten. I think those days of the "Peace for Galilee" campaign, when we had peace on our if southern front, constitute a very important break [hafsaqa] and peace is good even it costs something sometimes. [end recording]

IDF MAJOR LINKS SHARON TO W. BANK 'BRUTALITY'

TA120823 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Dec 82 p 2

[Text] A military court has allegedly heard evidence that Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon urged Israeli soldiers to beat Arab schoolchildren in the West Bank.

The trial of seven soldiers accused of brutally mistreating Arab youths in Hebron last March was adjourned this week until the end of the month. It has attracted almost no publicity in Israel.

On Tuesday, a major in the reserves reportedly told the court that the local military governor, Col Shalom Lugassi, had quoted Sharon as saying: "We must go into the school and hit them hard. Otherwise, there will be no order."

YEDI'OT AHARONOT said Defence Attorney Yehuda Resler intended to call Sharon to testify, but Resler declined to comment.

The seven soldiers, a major, four sergeant-majors, a corporal, and a private, are accused of detaining pupils from the Hebron's Islamic High School at the military govenor's headquarters and brutally mistreating them.

An army driver reportedly told the court on Tuesday: "We punched them, slapped them and kicked them. The major stood by and watched. Everyone hit them as hard as he could.

"Afterwards, I left the shed where this was happening because I couldn't stand beating up people who couldn't fight back."

The witness is already serving a six-month prison sentence for his part in the incident.

Another prosecution witness alleged that the soldiers tied the youths by their wrists to the crossbar of a soccer goal and then kicked them.

SHARON, EYTAN SUMMONED TO IDF SOLDIERS' TRIAL

TA121943 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Refa'el Eytan have been summoned to testify in the trial of seven soldiers accused of abusing students in Hebron. Our correspondent Rami Weitz reports that the attorneys of the accused decided to summon Minister Sharon as a witness for the defense in view of the fact that according to one witness, the minister ordered the former governor of Hebron to go into the schools and hit the students in order to insure quiet in the city. The chief of staff was mentioned in several testimonies as having participated in debates of the military government about student riots.

COURT CONVICTS SERGEANT IN ARAB BOY'S DEATH

TA161645 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] A military court in the central region today convicted a reserve staff sergeant of using his weapon unlawfully, causing the death of an Arab boy. The military prosecutor said the defendent was the commander of a patrol in Halhul.

During a boys' demonstration in the town, he fired his personal weapon toward a school wall while there were a few boys hiding behind it. He also ordered his soldiers to do the same. The prosecutor stressed that this was done contrary to regulations and without taking proper precautions. As mentioned, one boy was killed from the shots and two were wounded. An ITIM correspondent reports that the commander of the Central Command, Major General Ori Or, will testify for the prosecution.

2 MEMBERS OF PALESTINIAN DELEGATION TALKS NAMED

TA111510 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] The expelled mayors from the Hebron hills, Fahd al-Qawasimi and Muhammad Milhim, are the most prominent candidates participating in a Palestinian delegation to future Middle East peace talks. This has been learned by our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari. It seems their participation in such a delegation was discussed during their conversation with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Both have already reported on this talk to Yasir 'Arafat. Our correspondent has learned that the trend is to include in the delegation Palestinians now living in Amman and who are subject to the influence of the PLO and Jordan. Palestinians who are in the territories will not be part of the delegation because they are exposed to pressures by Israel, the influence of the communists, and Syria's supporters in the territories.

FRAYJ CALLS FOR MUTUAL PLO-ISRAEL RECOGNITION

TA120726 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj says it would be to the PLO's great advantage to show its readiness to recognize Israel. In Frayj's opinion, the mutual Israel-PLO recognition should be simultaneous and as soon as possible since time is running out due to Israel's settlement policy. Frayj thinks most of the inhabitants in the territories agree with the idea of a confederation between Jordan and Palestine and that Abu Salih's [Nimr Salih] attack on Yasir 'Arafat on this issue is unimportant. Frayj spoke with our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari.

DUDIN DENOUNCES U.S. CONSULATE IN E. JERUSALEM

TA140912 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] The head of the village leagues in Judaea and Samaria, Mustafa Dudin, sharply attacked the U.S. Consulate in east Jerusalem in reaction to remarks by the State Department's spokesman that talks with Dudin cannot contribute to the inclusion of Palestinians and Jordanians in the peace talks.

Mustafa Dudin believes that the United States must not judge the Palestinians and that it is common knowledge that many of the Palestinians' problems were provoked by Washington's policy. He told our correspondent Arye Gus that the U.S. Consulate in east Jerusalem exercises a hypocritical policy regarding the Palestinians: Consulate staff declare that they want to contribute to bring about peace, but at the same time, they help extremists and discriminate against moderates.

HIGH COURT ORDERS HEBRON CONSTRUCTION STOPPED

TA122059 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2045 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Jerusalem, 12 Dec (ITIM) -- The High Court of Justice today issued an order nisi ordering the head of the civilian administration in Judaea and Samaria to explain, within 45 days, why he did not order the demolition work and construction of buildings in the heart of Hebron stopped, and for not ordering an investigation into those involved in the affair.

Justice Miryam Ben-Porat, who issued the order, also ordered a temporary injunction against continuing the work in Hebron, pending the court's judgment.

The orders were issued at the request of the Hebron munipicality, which complained that in the area of the market in the heart of Hebron, unidentified persons -- who, it has been hinted, are Jews -- have begun demolishing inhabitants' houses and setting up new buildings. These persons, they said, have been working under the eyes of IDF soldiers and in cooperation with the civilian administration.

The municipality has claimed that this work is being done without its knowledge or approval, and that this is in violation of the law granting it exclusive jurisdiction over construction and demolition work within its area.

MINISTER BEN-PORAT ON REHABILITATING REFUGEES

TA121912 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Cabinet Minister Mordekhay Ben-Porat says the Palestinian refugees in the territories can be rehabilitated between 3 to 4 years. Ben-Porat, who heads the Ministerial Committee on Refugee Rehabilitation, is planning to bring a blueprint before the Cabeint in another few months. Minister Ben-Porat was speaking today at the World Zionist Congress, and David Essing has the details:

[Begin recording] [Essing] Mordekhay Ben-Porat says international aid would be needed to carry out the project and he is confident the United States, other countries, and the United Nations would chip in. This, because the aim is humanitarian: to help to improve the lot of the estimated 260,000 refugees in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. Ben-Porat says the project now underway in Gaza can serve as a model:

[Ben-Porat] A small model has been already built in the Gaza Strip and about 6,000 families have already been rehabilitated in the Gaza Strip in their own houses, and another 3,000 families are in process. So, we want this model to make it the model of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and then at the end we want to prove to the world that this problem is not so difficult.

[Essing] Minister Ben-Porat believes the program will receive the support of the Cabinet and Israeli public opinion. So, if the Cabinet does approve the plan, will the Palestinian refugees accept? Ben-Porat says yes, after the expulsion of the PLO from Beirut:

[Ben-Porat] Now they have no dream of coming back to Israel, they are ready to be rehabilitated in those areas where they are living today. I don't say that the PLO or other extreme Arab countries will not make, put some obstacles upon this assignment. But, we have to start.

[Essing] Mordekhay Ben-Porat stresses that his blueprint is to rehabilitate the refugees in the areas where they now live. [end recording]

ZIONIST FEDERATION ON SETTLEMENT, IMMIGRATION

TA121802 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] The head of the Settlement Division in the World Zionist Federation, Matityahu Drobles, has said that following the settlement activities in the Galilee, there will be an equal proportion of Jews and Arabs in the area in 6 years. Today, 70 percent of the Galilee's inhabitants are Arabs. On settlements in Judaea and Samaria, he said the Jewish population there would double within 3 years to 100,000 people.

Work on 8,000 homes is now underway in the area.

The head of the Immigration Division, Refa'el Kotlowitz, said that during the first 10 months of 1982, there were only 633 immigrants from the Soviet Union, and that, in fact, that country's gates had been closed. From Iran, some 35,000 Jews left before Khomeyni took power, and some 30,000 have stayed behind. In Turkey and Ethiopia, there are 20,000 Jews each. On immigration from the West, Kotlowitz said that he predicts some 10,000 immigrants from there this year.

SETTLEMENT PLANS FOR COMING YEARS OUTLINED

TA121006 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Dec 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Excerpt] An internal memorandum of the Jewish Agency's Settlement Department and the Zionist Federation's settlement section which will be brought to the Zionist Congress for approval today, reveals that from 1983 to 1987, state expenditures for implementing the rural settlement programs beyond the Green Line will total $610 million.

According to estimates, this sum will break down as follows: for infrastructure ($150 million), for residential building ($160 million), for production and employment ($300 million).

The explanatory introduction to the plan states that "the government was presented with a plan to settle 80,000 inhabitants in Judaea and Samaria by 1985, but it is reasonable to assume that the time necessary to achieve this settlement objective will be longer, due to limitations of budget and the possibilities of having such an accelerated pace of settling."

The memorandum also states that by 1987, about 2,800 new families will be absorbed in the existing settlements which are handled by the settlement section, while the rest of the families will be absorbed in 28 new settlements. Most of the settlements will be set up in regions which are unattractive to the urban population, namely, far from the coastal strip population centers.

The proposed development will bring an increased population of the existing settlements in the Gaza Strip and the establishment of a population [ikhlus] center (neve deqalim), as well as another three settlements. All in all, the addition in population projected for the Gaza Strip involves 450 families by 1987.

The establishment of six settlements is being planned for the southern Hebron hills. These settlements are expected to rely mainly on agriculture, and making use of tracts of agricultural and pasture lands.

The development goals on the Golan Heights will mean expanding and strengthening the existing settlements in which 530 families will be absorbed within 5 years. In addition, about seven settlements, slated to absorb about 200 families, will be set up. The memorandum states that "20,000 in the Golan" is the target plan.

The proposed development will lead to a doubling of the rural population in the Jordan Valley and in the northern Dead Sea by 1987. Most of the economic development will be in various branches of agriculture by completing the development of lands there. At the same time, tourist facilities will be developed on the Dead Sea shores and the Jericho environs. Two settlements per year will be set up in the region (namely, 10 settlements by 1987).

DAVAR CALLS FOR FULL ANNEXATION OF TERRITORIES

TA131553 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Dec 82 p 7

[Commentary by Dani Rubinstein: "If Annexation — Then Let It Be Full"]

[Excerpts] The limitation of the rights of Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza is anchored in the law. There is no democratic regime, but a military one known (at times also known as "the civilian administration") in the territories -- all this is known. The military government in the territories, in practice, applies only to the Arab population, whereas the Jews living in the territories maintain the same rights they would enjoy in Israel. One way to put an end to this discrimination is to grant the Arabs rights similar to those existing in Israel (or those that apply to Israeli Arabs) by simply abolishing the military government and instituting Israeli law instead. As a matter of fact, why not?

Israeli democracy, after all, knows how to cope with and curb the nationalist tendencies of Israeli Arabs while maintaining civil rights. Given the fact that the annexation of the West Bank and Gaza is almost full (economic annexation, military deployment, settlements and so on), why then should Israeli liberals and pursuers of civil rights not stand up and demand: Apply Israeli law to the territories, apply democratic legislation, and honor civil rights and the Knesset's supervision over the territories which have been annexed anyway, and which no one intends to leave.

If the military government is abolished and Israeli democracy "runs amok" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, there is a chance for oppression to disappear. It would not be possible to curb freedom of expression and political actions, it would be impossible to disband elected institutions, it would be difficult to arbitrarily arrest people, destroy houses, harm citizens and Arab property, close down educational institutions, and so on.

Twenty years ago, when a military government ruled over Israeli Arabs (in the Galilee, the triangle, and the Negev), in the 1950's and 1960's (until 1966), many people came out sharply against it, claiming that a military government does not serve any security interests.

Obviously, current Israeli leftists and doves, who in the past demanded a withdrawal from most of the held territories, cannot demand equality before Israeli law for the West Bank and Gaza Strip because this would mean full Israeli sovereignty in those areas. However, even those who have despaired of the possibility of an Israeli withdrawal are now beginning to think: Maybe it would be better to completely annex them? Maybe it would be better to fight for equal rights for the Arabs of the territories?

In contrast, it is strange to see that a large public campaign calling for the full application of Israeli law in the territories has not emerged among those supporting the Likud government and advocates of a Greater Eretz Yisra'el. Except for a few individuals of Gush Emunim and the Tehiya movement, such a demand has not been raised -- and this due to the fact that it would constitute a violation of the Camp David accords. It seems to be that the policy of the Begin government will never call for imposing Israeli law in the territories, because none of its people want to award the Arabs of the territories the full rights enjoyed by Israelis. This government prefers the current system which means discrimination and the selective extension of rights. The Begin government certainly prefers the current situation: annexation, but no rights for the Arabs.

Its interpretation of the autonomy plan does not provide for extending rights to the Arabs, but quite the opposite: As far as it is concerned, the plan provides for negating any rights to the Arabs and discriminating against them, compared with the Jews in the territories.

Equal rights to the Arabs of the territories (namely, applying Israeli law to them) will probably distort the so-called Jewish character of the State of Israel. However, speaking frankly, sometimes I also wonder whether a policy of oppression and the prolonged negation of rights is better. In fact, why not demand equality before Israeli law in the territories?

CABINET DISCUSSES STATE BUDGET FOR COMING YEAR

TA121149 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1140 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] The Cabinet ended its weekly meeting a few minutes ago. Today it discussed the state budget for the coming year. Our economic affairs correspondent 'Oded Shahar reports that generally speaking, the ministers were in agreement regarding the budget. Labor and Social Welfare Minister Aharon Uzan told our correspondent that the social legislation will continue and, therefore, he will support the budget. So far, it is known that the leader of the opponents to the budget proposal submitted by the finance minister is Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i. The debate over the state budget will continue next week, after which the Cabinet will vote on it.

More on Cabinet Budget

TA121222 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] The finance minister presented to the Cabinet today his budget proposal for the coming fiscal year. The debate on this issue will continue next week. The Cabinet also accepted Finance Minister Aridor's suggestion that a reaction to the Histadrut's threat of strike in the public sector be made by way of a statement in the Knesset this week.

Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that the governor of Israel's bank also participated in today's Cabinet discussion during which the energy minister charged that the budget proposal gives excess powers to the finance minister. Aridor will try to persuade his colleagues this week to support the budget proposal, although the proposal involves a cut of about 5 percent in most ministries. The entire budget, in today's money, totals 535 billion shekels, but this sum has not yet been adjusted to the expected rate of inflation and to next year's devaluations. Therefore, the budget may total over a trillion shekels.

Draft Fiscal Budget Reported

TA121909 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] More debt repayment, more money for export promotion, less defense spending and a 5 percent cut in the activities of most government ministries -- that is the message of the 535 billion shekel draft budget, at 1982 prices, presented by Finance Minister Yoram Aridor to the Cabinet this morning.

[Begin recording] [Harvey Brademan] The bottomline of this year's budget is that it is one of continuity. There are no new taxes, but higher tax collection due to the levy imposed after the war in Lebanon. In fact, the "Peace for Galilee" levy will come to an end in the next fiscal year. Debt servicing will total nearly 40 percent of the budget but defense spending will drop to just under one quarter. Export promotion is being increased rapidly, and most other government activities are being cut by 5 percent.

There will be a reform of capital financing for the housing market that will save the Treasury money. Manpower will be cut by 2 percent, excess government spending will be cut in half, which will mean less recourse to the printing press and this pouring of money into the economy. It is hoped this will lower inflation and improve the balance of payment situation.

Nobody yet knows the total budget figure in 1983 prices or the projected rate of inflation or devaluation. This depends on the wage agreements in the public sector and the inflation rate in 1982. The Treasury will adjust the budget to economic performance, and the rate of expenditure will remain under the Finance Ministry's thumb.

Most Cabinet ministers supported the budget proposal but Energy Minister Moda'i claimed the budget was meaningless because it presented no defined goals and cut vital budgets. Absorption Minister Uzan is hoping that new social support programs will be included, but the Treasury says: Any changes must be accompanied by cutting other expenditures.

I asked Treasury Director General 'Ezra Sadan how he summed up the outgoing fiscal year:

[Sadan] It wasn't the best year to fight inflation as a result of the circumstances. You may say that the accomplishment last year was the fact that we didn't have unemployment above, let's say, 5 to 5.5 percent while the rest of the Western world suffered from 10 to 15 percent.

[Brademan] What is going to happen in the coming year, especially as regards the ordinary man?

[Sadan] The best we can do, and we'll try our best to accomplish it, is to maintain the real wages, and at the very same time, maintain unemployment at a very low level.

[Brademan] Budget Director Ya'aqov Gadish told me the defense budget would be about 1 billion shekels less, because the cost of the war in Lebanon had largely been paid for already. [end recording]

KIMCHE REVIEWS THIRD WORLD RELATIONS, AID

TA131258 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1231 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today, Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche said that it would be wrong to say that Israel is returning to Africa only on the basis of military and security aid. He added that Israel was also developing economic activities, although this aspect is not covered by the media.

The Foreign Ministry director general and his assistant reviewed Israel's relations with Third World countries and the aid it extends to them before the Knesset committee. Both officials pointed out that Israel tries to maintain a low profile on this issue. Following an argument among committee members, Kimche said he could not refer to political questions about this issue. This report was brought by our correspondent Gil'ad Mishori.

ALGERIA

CSSR PLANNING OFFICIAL ARRIVES FOR 4-DAY VISIT

LD121230 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Svatopluk Potac, Czechoslovak deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Planning Commission, arrived in Algiers yesterday on an official visit in response to an invitation from Abdelhamid Brahimi, minister of planning and national development. The visit will last 4 days and comes within the framework of strengthening cooperation between the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. The possibility of setting up a suitable framework for organizing relations of technical consultations and exchanges and information in the field of planning will be discussed during the visit.

VENEZUELAN ENERGY MINISTER COMMENTS ON TALKS

LD120002 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] Minister of Energy and Petrochemical Industries Belkacem Nabi held a working session with the Venezuelan minister of energy and mines, who arrived in our country yesterday [10 December] on a working visit. The two ministers will resume [as heard] their talks on energy issues at the Ministry of Energy and Petrochemical Industries.

The Venezuelan minister, who is touring OPEC countries, said his visit to Algiers comes within the framework of the resolution adopted by the OPEC Audit Committee at its recent meeting in Abu Dhabi to strengthen the organization.

Asked about the current situation in the crude oil market, he explained that it is difficult because of the stockpiling policy and the economic circumstances in developing countries. He affirmed the need for producing countries to reach an agreement to defend the framework of official prices and to control production. This, he said, would help bring about an improvement in the oil market next year.

LIBYA

JANA: U.S. PRESSES BRAZIL TO STOP ARMS TO LIBYA

LD131130 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Dec (JANA) -- Informed political sources in Latin America have reported that during his visit to Brazil President Reagan classified the states hostile to U.S. policy. On the list drawn up by the U.S. delegation to the talks with Brazilian officials were the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, Angola, and Nicaragua.

The U.S. delegation asked Brazil not to have dealings with these states, and specifically to reduce the volume of relations with them.

These sources mention that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz tried to pressure the Brazilian Government to halt the sale of weapons to the Jamahiriyah, considering it a state unfriendly to the United States.

The political editor of JANA has commented on these reports, saying: This U.S. demand is considered new evidence of the hostile U.S. policy carried out by the Reagan administration against the liberated peoples, a policy pursued regularly and increasingly by U.S. President Reagan against all those who reject U.S. imperialism, injustice, oppression, and hegemony. However, it is in fact a policy incapable of comprehending the logic of history and the will for freedom, and an indication of aggression and the desire to shake international stability, security, and peace.

The editor goes on to say: Moreover, this strange request, though not odd coming from the Reagan administration, is considered a blatant transgression of the sovereignty of an independent state such as Brazil, as interference in its politicaldecision making and as an attempt to belittle the dignity of the people of Brazil.

The political editor concluded by saying: Free people of the world condemn this hostile U.S. policy; they are determined to struggle to challenge imperialism and colonialism and with every new day they are becoming more assured of victory.

AL-QADHDHAFI ON TIES WITH U.S., PRC, PLO, JAPAN

OW070615 Tokyo NHK Television Network in Japanese 2250 GMT 5 Dec 82

[Interview with Libyan head of state Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by three Japanese reporters, including NHK Banghazi correspondent Kuwae, at a farm on the outskirts of Banghazi on 4 December -- recorded; interview conducted in English with Japanese translations appearing in subtitles and simultaneous voice translation]

[Text] [Question] What was the main cause of the OAU's failure to convene a summit meeting on two occasions? The uncompromising attitude of Jamahiriyah was the main cause of the failure...

[Answer, interrupts] No, that is not true.

[Question] What do you think was the major reason for the second failure of the OAU summit?

[Answer] It is very clear: the intervention of the United States and France in the domestic affairs of some African countries. Because of this, those countries did not participate in the summit. Those African countries are not independent in that respect. We are willing to establish good relations with the United States as with any other country in the world. Libya has tried time and again to improve relations with the United States. However, the United States, particularly the Reagan administration, has refused to improve relations with Libya. The United States shows no sign of trying to improve relations.

[Question] Could you tell us why you visited China recently?

[Answer] Why not? China is a friendly country and an important country for the Third World. Our relations with China have been good thus far. Therefore, my recent visit to China is not of particular significance. On my part, I intend to maintain our present relations.

Our relations with the PLO are also good. The Palestinians are our brothers, and their unit [tani] is also our unit. When they were withdrawing from Beirut, I sent a telegram to Chairman 'Arafat encouraging him to fight to the last drop of their blood. But I did not mean to tell them to commit suicide. I think you can understand what I am saying if you look at the massacre that occurred at the refugee camps after the PLO withdrew from Beirut.

We consider Japan a friendly country. Historically, we have had no bad relations and at present there are no problems that might hamper the improvement of cooperation between the two sides. There are possibilities for our two countries to cooperate with each other in all fields and improve relations. This is my message to the Japanese people.

MOROCCO

SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER RYZHOV DEPARTS

LD131350 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Nikita Ryzhov left Morocco this morning after an official visit to our country which lasted several days.

In a statement to the radio correspondent, Ryzhov said that he had talks with the secretary of state for foreign affairs on bilateral relations and international issues. He also expressed his wish to return to Morocco to familiarize himself further with it and to visit the city of Fes in particular.

The Soviet official was seen off at the airport by (Omar Bnelkoura), director of the European section at the Ministry of State for Foreign Affairs, the Soviet ambassador to Rabat and the representatives of the Greater Casablanca governor.

TUNISIA

BOURGUIBA'S HEALTH SAID TO BE IMPROVING

LD131638 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers met this morning at the Government House in (Al-Qasabah) under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali. Following the deliberations, Minister of Information Tahar Belohodja made the following statement:

The prime minister has informed the council that this morning he visited President Habib Bourguiba and noted a tangible improvement in his health, which is proceeding gradually toward complete recovery. The council assures the people of the health of the great combatant and that he will resume his activities in the coming days.

MZALI HOLDS TALKS WITH PLO REPRESENTATIVE

LD131510 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] This morning, Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, received at the Government House PLO representative (Hasan Bil'awi).

Following the meeting, (Hasan Bil'awi) mentioned that the conversation revolved around the present Arab situation, especially the Palestinian question and the results of the contacts of the seven-member committee, and also the joint action that the Arabs should take to further the struggle against the Zionist dangers and challenges and to back the Arab people in Lebanon in overcoming the numerous problems they are facing as a result of Israel's storming of Lebanese territory.

(Hasan Bil'awi) added that the conversation also dealt with the meeting of the society to preserve Palestinian heritage to be held in Tunis on 18 December. He noted that Mohamed Mzali showed full understanding and support for all these subjects. He said he transmitted to him greetings from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for President Habib Bouguiba and his wishes for his speedy recovery. (Hasan Bil'awi) explained that the prime minister emphasized the firmness and depth of existing bonds between the two political leaderships, Tunisian and Palestinian, and between the two peoples, and Tunisia's backing for the struggle of the Palestinian people until they realize their aims of freedom and independence.

DJIBOUTI

PRESIDENT RETURNS HOME FROM KUWAIT 13 DEC

EA132006 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1645 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Summary] The president of the Republic of Djibouti, Hassan Gouled Aptison, and his delegation returned home this afternoon after a 24-hour official visit to Kuwait during which the Arab Development Bank extended a loan of $15 million to modernize the electricity system in Djibouti.

ETHIOPIA

ALLEGATIONS OF POISONOUS GAS USE DENIED

EA121848 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0500 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] The Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated today that the recent utterance by U.S. authorities accusing Ethiopia of having used poisonous gas in some parts of its territory is a malicious and baseless statement.

In its statement the ministry said that that utterance by the U.S. authorities is a malicious one as a result of the atrocious crimes it has committed against mankind in general and against blacks and Asians in particular ever since becoming an independent country [sentence as heard]. The ministry explained that America, known as a human rights violator throughout all the continents, was the first to produce nerve gas, chemical weapons, neutron bombs and other similar weapons capable of mass destruction. It has used automatic weapons against millions of innocent people. The position held in the opinion of other countries is one whereby it is not qualified to teach human rights and morals to others.

In its statement the Ministry of Foreign Affairs pointed out that Ethiopia has no chemical weapons, no desire to acquire them in the future and has been attacked by chemical weapons. Like fascist Italy, perhaps America is planning chemical warfare against the Ethiopian people, using that utterance as a cover.

In its statement the Foreign Ministry pointed out that the United States, which has set up numerous military bases throughout the world, the targets of which are progressive and developing countries, and which has established a military base in Somali territory 60 km from the Ethiopian border, is preparing to invade Ethiopia and has massed a Rapid Deployment Force. Since these and other similar actions are dangerous to world peace and security, socialist Ethiopia strongly condemns the action.

The ministry noted that the United States, which could not find peace of conscience because of the atrocious crimes it has committed throughout its history, is making senseless utterances by falsely accusing countries which are making daily efforts for peace, freedom, justice, equality and economic development. The truth is that U.S. imperialism, which is a stumbling block to countries such as Ethiopia who were trying to solve their internal problems peacefully, is the protector of reactionary and antirevolutionary powers.

The ministry noted that a country like the United States, whose civilization and economic development is in general based on arms sales and war, has no proof that it stands for peace and the security of mankind; it is possible to cite many situations that show its appalling nature and behavior.

In short, if there was a country which did not ratify the agreements on the use of chemical weapons, the United States would be one. It was the United States which tested the atomic bomb on the Japanese people at the end of World War II. The ministry explained that this action is still causing suffering to the Japanese people. The ministry noted that another country that has suffered from American chemical and nerve gas is Vietnam, adding that as a result of these dreadful weapons which the United States had used to destroy not only human life but also animals and plants, that country's natural features have been completely altered.

The ministry said that in Africa the United States is arming the racist and fascist regime of South Africa with chemical weapons in order to destroy black people. It said that if there was a country [words indistinct] lives of men, women and children. The Reagan administration in particular had carried out crimes against morality.

The ministry pointed out that under the cover of the communist threat the arrogant and rightist Reagan administration has been carrying out actions which have spread an uncontrollable fire throughout the world by following the orders of those who manufacture arms. The ministry added that this unexpected utterance directed at Ethiopia and other peace-loving countries should be viewed from this aspect.

The ministry stated that this kind of false utterance will jeopardize relations between the two countries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs ended its statement by calling on the United States to stop once and for all its provocative action, namely distorting the truth and continuously spreading lies.

KENYA

PRESIDENT DELIVERS ANNIVERSARY DAY SPEECH

EA122100 Nairobi Domestic Service in Swahili 0949 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Address by President Daniel arap Moi, on the 19th anniversary of independence and the 19th anniversary of the republic at Jamhuri Park, Nairobi -- live]

[Excerpts] As you all know, it is possible for any government not to tell its citizens the truth by giving a brighter picture than that of the real situation in order to preserve its political popularity. In addition, we must realize that in order to succeed we must accept reality and be determined to deal with problems.

A good example in the country is that of food supply. Implementation of useful policies and the great efforts of our farmers have enabled us to have enough food with surplus for export. There is also progress in other areas, for example water supply, education and the construction of modern hospitals.

However, we should also recognize areas where progress is slow or nonexistent. One such area is that of family planning education. As I have said before, if we have a large rise in population it will be difficult to achieve our economic and social development objectives.

Some leaders appear to be afraid of telling citizens about the problems caused by rapid increase in population. But as I have said before, we must always accept the truth. Furthermore, it is not only a few of us who are required to plan their families. We should all do so. I want every leader, civil servant, councillor and party official to play his part in educating citizens on this issue.

Ladies and gentlemen, I shall now move on to my main theme for today. In the context of all that jamhuri [republic] means, all the problems facing us should be taken as a challenge not only to the government but also to the party and citizens. And as regards our party, KANU, today I want to deal with some questions concerning its functions.

I have no doubt at all that KANU has an important role which it must diligently perform in all national affairs. As the political party forming the government, and as the party sustaining the government, KANU is required through all its elected leaders and officials to educate on policies and problems, to safeguard constitutional rights and maintain law, to establish standards of conduct and to take any necessary disciplinary measures to maintain national dignity.

I also wish to emphasize that if KANU is to fulfill its obligations effectively, there are three important factors to bear in mind. First, it must continue to be the party of all citizens as a political instrument and it must be able to solve the problems of human needs.

Secondly the party must at all times be democratic so that its members feel that their votes and opinions are taken into consideration in reaching decisions.

Thirdly, the party must be ready to advise the government on various issues and should also enlighten all citizens.

I am outlining these objectives in order to assure you that party revitalization is being taken seriously. As a first step I have given instructions that enrollment of members all over the republic should start two days from today, that is on 14 December 1982. [applause]

Receipt books will be available from all district commissioners. That exercise will be followed by grassroot elections all over the country. That will be followed by the constitutional process of forming a new governing council and national executive committee. At every stage in this process, which starts from sublocation level [as heard] to senior party office holders, democracy must be upheld in a manner that can be clearly seen by every citizen.

Recently I was surprised and annoyed when a few individuals said they were not sure whether KANU was committed to democracy. This was said during the debate on the constitutional amendment bill. Such talk is usually tied to the clearance of candidates for parliamentary elections.

When it comes to the scrutiny of candidates, the party is only carrying out its constitutional obligation, that is, to ensure that certain conditions -- particularly commitment to objectives and policies of the party -- are satisfied. The party does not do any more than that. In all the constituencies represented in parliament a large number of candidates with different views on development can compete.

What is required -- and I appeal to all citizens and leaders -- is that each district should be left to do its work. Individuals should not sponsor their own candidates in every district so as to cause quarrels in the district. That places KANU in a difficult situation. It is better that citizens contesting elections in any particular district should not receive any outside assistance. [applause] In this way, the district will enjoy its democracy and rights without being influenced by people from outside supporting candidates from unknown parties [as heard] By so doing you will ensure that democracy is playing its role. If I see candidates sponsored by personalities entering districts, then I personally will name the KANU candidate because if KANU has no father it will be unfortunate. [applause] Therefore, let each distruct do its own work so that KANU can have its rights.

Citizens in the district should have the right to decide who the right candidate is for them.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention an important point. In Nairobi, Nakuru and other places there appears to be a shortage of paraffin and gas. I would like to say that as of today -- there are these things in the country -- we do not have a national shortage of paraffin or of gas. I want all distributors to ensure that citizens' requirements are met. I do not want people to line up for paraffin. [applause] The companies which supply these products -- if I hear that there is a shortage of paraffin or of gas, I shall be forced to forbid their use for export -- Kenya's needs come first. When I say such things, they must be heeded. I will tell the police commissioner who is here to enforce that directive. [applause]

Also KANU could investigate the distributors to see whether they are being straightforward or are hiding things to make profit in a manner contrary to the wishes of the government and people of Kenya. From today, therefore, these commodities must be available.

In conclusion, I would like to touch on misleading reports by foreign journalists. The existence of a single political party in the country does not mean that Kenya is not democratic. This decision was reached 8 years ago when revising the KANU Constitution. During the revision in 1974 it was decided that when the time came for the establishment of a single party in Kenya, it would be by the voluntary decision of the citizens themselves. It was also agreed that all political, economic and social functions must be based on local needs. Those are the facts.

I would like to explain it simply, as follows. We Kenyans will always do things in our own way in accordance with the needs of the citizens and our nation. In Europe, Asia, South America or anywhere else in the world they have their own brands of democracy. We in Kenya observe democracy in a way that our citizens understand. This means that all our citizens are involved in all the affairs of the nation.

I would like to say here that those who ran away from Kenya and went to assemble in London to spread dirty stories, saying the army had killed 2,000 people and that the coup attempt came about as a result of this are traitors. Many of them are lecturers from Nairobi University. I can say they were part and parcel of the attempted coup. [applause]

Those people who were killed -- and I want to say that if our army had not taken steps to protect the citizens many more would have died. If they had wanted to shoot them all -- even the air force -- how many young people would remain? They would all be dead.

They also concocted stories saying that the coup was caused by the formation of a single party and the detention of people. I want to ask the citizens: When was the coup planned, my brothers? Was it not toward the end of last year? Who had we detained then? When did we start a single party or legalize only one party? And they go on to fabricate such stories. They ran to lecture in British universities and other places.

You will hear a few more things. We are peaceloving. Whoever runs away from here -- there is no other country more peaceful than Kenya. [applause] If it had not been for the fact that we resolved to protect our children and citizens, we would have shown them that they were faced by men. Therefore, let me tell those who are fleeing to London and gathering people from the West Indies -- what do West Indians know about Africa? Did they not suffer from slavery? Are they not pleading with others in London now?

We want the many foreign reports in Nairobi to start sending the truth outside.

Even Uganda -- although I would not want to say anything about a neighbor -- we do not have armed Ugandans meeting here to plot. They are there -- (Museveni) is in Uganda. [applause] (Ibingira) is in Washington. And we are accused. We are safeguarding the border. We have helped as much as possible but they are insulting us.

We shall continue to remain as we are -- we have no intention of provoking anybody, but if we are provoked then that is different. But we do not wish to be provoked excessively as though Kenya is everybody's playground. We have helped Uganda for many years. From the days of Amin we have been helping the people of Uganda -- Ugandans fled here by the thousands. Do they want us to send back refugees to be harmed when they get there? Kenya does not like to see people losing their lives. We value life.

All right if they want more, let them say so. I think the high commissioner is here. Let him tell them that we do not want any provocation from outside. Nor do we want bad relations with neighbors. We want cordial relations. Therefore, let me tell those writing their pamphlets in London or elsewhere that if they like their country if they are men, let them come back here and say whatever they have to say. Recently a lecturer was caught receiving two salaries -- from the Kenya Institute of Administration, and from another university. Who is cheating now? For 2 years he has been receiving two salaries.

He claims that the government has started arresting people from the university. We have only arrested a thief. [laughter and applause] When MPS steal and run away they claim to be political refugees. What kind of political animal is a thief? A criminal.

The status of an individual in Kenya is the same before the law for the educated and the uneducated. If someone wished to harm the Tanzanian leader would I keep such a person here? I would not. Nor one who wished to harm the Ugandan leader. But what happens right inside Uganda -- many were injured in Makerere yesterday and the day before. Some soldiers were killed. Were they from Kenya? No.

I thank you, the people of Kenya. Stay the way you are. Be vigilant. If you are members of KANU stay peacefully.

SOMALIA

FOREIGN MINISTER STRESSES DANGER IN HORN

LD121534 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1432 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 12 Dec (KUNA) -- Somali Foreign Minister Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre stressed the danger of the situation in the African Horn and stated, in a special statement to KUNA, that Somalia will defend every inch of its territory. He said that the Ethiopian Army has moved 32 km inside the Somali border, and added: Ethiopia, as always, likes colonialism and wants to continue colonizing.

He said that Ethiopia will not succeed in this, that Somalia will defend its independence and freedom, and that Ethiopia must submit to the right of self-determination in the region. He said that the Somali Army has the right to defend its freedom and that Somalia, which has aspired to freedom since the 15th century, will not stop until it has achieved its aim.

The Somali foreign minister stressed his country's concern to make every effort aimed at the unity of Arab ranks. He said that Arab solidarity is the strongest weapon with which the Arabs can face their enemies.

He said: The enemies of the Arab nation get the maximum benefit from Arab differences. He pointed out that Israel is not the only beneficiary of these differences. He said that he will deliver a message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan on current issues and bilateral relations between the two countries, before leaving the UAE.

UGANDA

UGANDA TIMES ACCUSES KENYA OF 'SABOTAGE'

AB101310 Paris AFP in English 1143 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] Kampala, Dec 10 (AFP) -- The official UGANDA TIMES newspaper today accused neighboring Kenya of being the "headquarters of sabotage against Uganda" and Kenyan Attorney General Joseph Kamere of "drinking and dining with bandits" of the opposition Uganda Freedom Movement in Nairobi.

The newspaper was responding to a report earlier this week that Mr Kamere had complained about lack of cooperation from the Uganda Government in extraditing Kenyan member of Parliament James Orengo. Kampala has persistently denied that Mr Orengo, who jumped bail more than two weeks ago, was in Uganda.

The UGANDA TIMES alleged that Mr Kamere was "raising dust over mere hearsay about some runaway member of Parliament being in Uganda" while ignoring "murderers" in Nairobi.

This could be "in order to divert world attention from the Uganda Freedom Movement (UFM) bandits he drinks and dines with in Nairobi," the official English language daily said in its editorial. "By all accounts Uganda has exercised a lot of restraint and shown a lot of patience in her dealings with the Republic of Kenya, especially as regards Nairobi's unofficial role as the headquarters of sabotage against Uganda," it added.

"Orengo's crime is certainly not as grave as that of the bandits living in Nairobi and there is no reason to raise hell about a criminal of lesser crime when those of graver crimes are free," the editorial went on.

Mr Kamere "should focus his attention on the dissident leaders at his elbow before worrying about Mr Orengo, whose whereabouts he does not actually know," it said.

PAKISTANI ARRESTED FOR 'PROMOTING WAR'

EA101900 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] A Pakistani citizen in the employment of the Libyan Arab Socialist Jamahiriyah has appeared before the Kampala magistrate charged with promoting war in Uganda.

Before the chief magistrate, Mr (Obongomo), was (Sajad Haydar Sorie) alias Muhammad Ibrahim, alias Muhammad (Sajabi), who was brought to the court under heavy security escort.

The charge against him alleged that between the month of February and 10 December 1982, in Luwero, Mpigi and Kampala districts, without lawful authority the accused aided and advised the carrying-out of warlike undertakings against chiefs.

The chief magistrate warned the accused of the seriousness of the offence, which carries imprisonment for life when convicted.

The accused was remanded in custody until his case will be brought for mention before the court on 23 December 1982.

CONGO

AUTHORITIES CLAIM LIBYAN 'PRESSURE' TO HELP TROOPS

AB121324 Paris AFP in English 1310 GMT 12 Dec 82

[By Jean-Eudes Barbier]

[Text] Brazzaville, Dec 12 (AFP) -- Congolese authorities who helped 100 Libyan troops to reach the Central African Republic for a reported destabilization operation against neighboring Chad are now saying they were pressured into aiding Tripoli, diplomatic sources said here. Reliable sources said that the Libyans, who were landed from a ship, the Garyonis, at the sea port of Pointe Noire in October, were flown with their baggage and personal equipment to Brazzaville, from where a Central African plane took them to Bangui. Their heavy equipment, including several tons of ammunition, four jeeps, four armored cars and eight trucks, were taken by rail to the Congolese capital and then shipped on by river. Only four tanks, too large for the Congolese railways, were left behind on the Libyan ship, the sources said.

The authorities here are now telling foreign diplomats here that they accepted the Libyan demand reluctantly, but wanted to avoid a conflict on the eve of the resumed OAU conference in Tripoli. However some observers here said that Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso could have let himself be persuaded by the pro-Libyan and pro-Soviet hardline faction in his Marxist-Leninist government. Despite denials from Bangui, observers here still think the Libyans in Central Africa are eventually to be employed against the government of Hissein Habre in Ndjamena, which wants the return of the Libyan-occupied Aouzou Strip in northern Chad.

Libya has set up the former Ndjamena government of Goukouni Oueddei in Bardai, in northern Chad, and was backed by Congo and other radical states in the row over who should represent Chad which wrecked the second attempt to hold the OAU summit. Mr Goukouni's vice-president, Colonel Abdel Kadar Kamougue, a former leader of southern Chad -- which would be the target of the Libyans based near Bangui -- has been seen making frequent visits to Brazzaville recently, while Colonel Sassou-Nguesso is said to have decided to boycott the summit meeting of the Central African Customs Union (UDEAC) in Yaounde, Cameroon, because it would mean sitting down with Mr Habre.

OIL REFINERY BEGINS OPERATION 11 DECEMBER

AB121039 Paris AFP in English 1015 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Pointe Noire, Congo, Dec 12 (AFP) -- Congo's first oil refinery was officially opened here yesterday after 11 years of troubled construction, ending this West African state's dependence on other countries to refine the oil it produced for its own consumption. The refinery, which has a capacity of one million tons annually, was inaugurated by President Denis Sassou-Nguesso six years after its scheduled completion date, which was delayed by a legal dispute.

The Congolese Government went to the arbitration court of the International Chamber of Commerce after the original scheme drawn up and executed by a Belgian, Spanish and Austrian consortium at a cost of almost 100 million dollars proved to contain serious errors. Having won their case in 1981, the authorities asked the French Technip Company to put matters right, at a cost of more than 100 million dollars, according to Congolese Mines and Energy Minister Rodolphe Dada. Congo is expected to produce 4.5 million tons of oil from its mainly offshore wells this year. Ten percent of this is for home consumption.

BENIN

KEREKOU SOLIDARITY MESSAGE TO LESOTHO LEADER

AB121104 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 10 Dec 82

[President Kerekou's message of sympathy to Lesotho Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan following the 9 December South African attack on Lesotho]

[Text] Your Excellency and dear brother: We have learned with much surprise and indignation of the large-scale and barbarous aggression carried out against your country and people by the racist South African authorities.

On behalf of the people of Benin, their vanguard party -- the Beninese People's Revolutionary Party -- the National Executive Council and on my own behalf, I wish to address to you our sincerest sympathy and unflinching solidarity. We firmly condemn this barbarous aggression which once again demonstrates the diabolic desire of the racist South African regime to use every means possible to obstruct the efforts of the free and independent states of the region to contribute to the emancipation of the black majority in order to create a society based on equality, justice, and peace.

While reaffirming our militant support for you, may I ask you, Your Excellency and dear brother, to accept the expression of our highest and fraternal considerations.

[Signed] Mathieu Kerekou

CAPE VERDE

CUBA'S ALMEIDA ARRIVES IN PRAIA FOR TALKS

AB101849 Paris AFP in English 1440 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] Praia, Dec. 10 (AFP) -- A high-level Cuban delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Juan de Almeida Bosque arrived here today for talks with Cape Verdian Government leaders.

The visit follows a meeting earlier this week between representatives of Angola and South Africa, which wants Cuban troops out of Angola as a prerequisite to a solution of the Namibian independence problem.

An informed source here said that the matter of the Cuban troops had been discussed at that meeting but no agreement had been reached. However, both sides concurred that the Namibian problem must be resolved within a strictly African setting.

It was not known if the Namibian question would be discussed by the Cuban delegation, which also includes Deputy Foreign Minister Oscar Oramas Oliva and Communist Party Central Committee official Bernardo Munos.

The Cubans are due to have meetings with Cape Verde Prime Minister Pedro Pires and President Aristides Pereira, who will be given a message from Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

GUINEA

TOURE SENDS MESSAGE TO LESOTHO PRIME MINISTER

AB100840 Conakry Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Message from President Sekou Toure to Lesotho Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan following South Africa's incursion into Lesotho]

[Text] We have learned with indignation of the armed invasion of your country by Pretoria's fascist hordes under the pretext of destroying one of the ANC's remote bases. This act of aggression perpetrated by the Pretoria regime with the support of international imperialism is in conformity with the global imperialist strategy of destabilization of the independent African states.

We strongly condemn this act which constitutes a flagrant violation of your country's territorial integrity and sovereignty. The Guinean people, government, and I assure you of our total solidarity in these hours of very difficult trials in our struggle to defend the freedom and independence of the African fatherland. [Words indistinct] highest considerations.

[Signed] Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea

LIBERIA

PRC REIMPOSES BAN ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

AB101936 Monrovia Radio Elwa in English 1900 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] The People's Redemption Council [PRC] has reimposed its ban on political activities in the country following an early morning meeting of that body today. Announcing this today, the chairman of the council, Commander in Chief [CIC] Dr Samuel K. Doe said this decision affects any individual or group of individuals who would indulge in political speeches, remarks, or acts which may affect the stability of the government. He said the firmness of the council in this respect is justified by its decision giving security agencies in the country the right to arrest anyone antagonizing government by such action.

Unless proof is established, according to the council such an individual will face the 2-year maximum detention sentence. He said for those caught making unfavorable speeches and pronouncements against government, no investigation would be held.

The head of state noted that economic conditions of our country today demand that we take measures that will redirect the minds of people who should be working in the interest of government. He noted that even newspapers have the habit of politicizing issues. Any reporter found guilty of misquoting individuals will bear similar penalties, he declared. Speaking on the role of national leaders, the head of state said they should become aware of their responsibility in helping to guide the destiny of the nation instead of inciting citizens against government.

The Liberian leader the existence [as heard] of the military regime in this country said people seem to want to take us for granted because of the freedom we have allowed to prevail in the country. Reemphasizing the council's commitment to a return to civilian rule, the Liberian leader noted that those with political intentions should realize the need for political stability now.

ASSISTANT MINISTER FIRED FOR CRITICIZING DOE

AB100907 Paris AFP in English 0907 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] Monrovia, Dec 10 (AFP) -- Liberian Head of State Samuel Doe has sacked an assistant minister for criticizing the working conditions of teachers and pointing out the comfortable lifestyle enjoyed by others.

Mr Doe, in a letter of dismissal sent to Assistant Information Minister M. Warner, said that his actions "prove contrary to the aims and aspirations of our people."

According to THE DAILY OBSERVER newspaper, Mr Warner recently told graduates of a teacher training institute that "teachers are the least well paid and the least respected in Liberia, while the rascal in Monrovia rides flashy cars, drinks milk in the morning, and makes trips abroad." He was reported as saying that "if teachers fail to fight for their rights, most of them will die poor."

Mr Doe has criticized Foreign Minister H. Boimah Fahnbulleh for making similar remarks. Mr Fahnbulleh said big cars, luxurious houses and the practice of living higher than the ordinary man were some of the "corrupt values which continues to breed in our society."

NIGERIA

EKWUEME CALLS FOR OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID

AB111013 Lagos NAN in English 0930 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] Jos, Dec. 10 (NAN) -- The vice president, Dr. Alex Ekwueme, today in Jos urged African countries to do everything possible to ensure that apartheid did not remain long on the continent.

Dr. Ekwueme made the call in an address he delivered at the two-day workshop marking the end of the international year of the mobilisation of sanctions against South Africa.

He said that no African state should consider any sacrifice too great to raise the dignity of Africans on the continent and that no African state should regard itself independent as long as apartheid was allowed to reign supreme on the continent.

He said that apartheid could only be liquidated through the forces of arms by the oppressed and the deprived majority in southern Africa and Namibia with the full moral and material support of all African countries.

Dr. Ekwueme urged African countries to employ effective use of sanctions against South Africa to prevent the Pretoria regime from openly and illegally defying the collective voice of mankind.

He said that the setting up of the National Committee Against Apartheid by Nigeria was a sign of the Federal Government's commitment to the liberation struggles in southern Africa and its determination to eliminate apartheid in the shortest possible time.

The vice president urged the conference to lend further impetus to, and propel the fight for the achievement of independence for Namibia and the final elimination of apartheid in southern Africa.

SENEGAL

SOCIALISTS NOMINATE DIOUF FOR PRESIDENCY

AB130849 Paris AFP in French 1251 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Dakar, 12 Dec (AFP) -- The congress of Senegal's Socialist Party, which has just ended in Dakar, has expressed that party's will to extend its hand to other political factions without renouncing its options in favor of democratic socialism, observers believe.

Throughout the congress, Senegalese head of state Abdou Diouf, unaimously appointed the party's candidate for the presidential elections scheduled to take place in February 1983, appeared to want to bring together all Senegalese people. In fact, he called on his party to promote an open policy with the "sole aim of reconciling the Senegalese among themselves, mobilizing minds and energy" for the development of the country.

For President Diouf "the extreme fragmentation of the political scene" in Senegal where there are 14 political parties is part of the growing pains of Senegalese democracy.

According to the president, it is possible to remedy this "fragmentation" by cultivating a sense of national solidarity and by overcoming "the old ideological reflexes which have caused artifical and superficial splits" among the Senegalese.

According to President Diouf, there is no question of going back on the multiparty system without limitations, which he initiated, but what is involved is bringing together "all men of goodwill" who feel that the Senegalese can rally around common ideals, consult on the main issues, and work together to find solutions to the most pressing national problems.

Such an open policy enabled the "Senegalese Progressive Union," the former name of the Socialist Party to strengthen its base in towns following Senegal's independence in 1960 by merging with other political factions.

Today, the aim is to pursue the same policy while bearing in mind the current context, Mr Diouf said, while stressing that the envisaged open policy will be "much more political and doctrinal than sociological" even if his party feels that it is necessary to strengthen its sociological base by promoting more strongly the accession of the youth, cadres, and women and men of culture.

What remains to be seen is whether or not this open policy will lead to the formation of a national union government after the presidential and parliamentary elections next February. Several opposition parties advocate the formation of such a government and the Senegalese Constitution has been amended to enable the establishment of a coalition government.

ANGOLA

CUBA REAFFIRMS SUPPORT ON MPLA ANNIVERSARY

AB131810 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] In a message addressed to the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba reaffirmed its unflinching support for the just struggle of the Angolan people. The message is sent on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the foundation of the MPLA and the fifth anniversary of its transformation into a workers' party. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba underscored the courageous struggle of the Angolan people against the racist forces for national liberation and for the creation of a new society. It was noted in the message that racist South Africa's criminal aggression and the sabotage action by some political bandits and [word indistinct] will not stop the Angolan people advancing in their just struggle and the creation of a new socialist state.

COMOROS

UPC LEADERS SCORE FRANCE ON MAYOTTE 'OCCUPATION'

AB131735 Paris AFP in French 1235 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Moroni, 13 Dec (AFP) -- The leaders of the Comoro Union for Progress [UPC] -- the only Comoro party -- again condemned "France's illegal occupation of the island of Mayotte" at a rally organized by the party on Friday at Mitsoudje (Greater Comoro) in the presence of Prime Minister Ali Mroudjae. In a speech carried by Radio Comoro, Abderemane Mohamed, former minister of information and justice and secretary general of the party, and Said Hassane Siad Hachime, the Nrazidja Island governor, called on the Comoro nation to become aware of "France's obstinacy in continuing to flout the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country through its illegal occupation of part of its territory." Meanwhile, Mr Siad Hachim thanked the "142 nations that voted in favor of a UN resolution calling for the return of Mayotte to the Islamic Federal Republic of Comoro." Also, the governor called on the population for unity as "the only way to reach a concensus and to make France see reason." He later urged "all social groups" to support the UPC.

LESOTHO

GOVERNMENT REJECTS RSA CLAIM ON MASERU RAID

MB131402 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] The spokesman for the Lesotho Government has said that the broadcast by the South African Broadcasting Corporation and press reports that Lesotho had been informed well ahead that Maseru would be invaded is not true. The spokesman said that Lesotho Government had no idea of this incident. Meanwhile, a spokesman for Lesotho's security forces has denied reports in the South African newspaper, SUNDAY TIMES of 12 December, that Lesotho forces withdrew after being assured by the head of the South African Defense Force that their raid on Maseru last Thursday would affect ANC members only. The spokesman said as soon as the attack took place, Lesotho security forces were engaged with Boer soldiers in [word indistinct] areas of Maseru, including the polo ground near the Mohokare border and in front of Victoria Hotel.

Four Boer soldiers and one Mosotho were injured in this encounter. The spokesman said a group of South African soldiers was cut off from the others between Dikope and Hapetsani behind the LFP base.

It is in reference to this group that leaders of the South African Defense Force telephoned the head of Lesotho's security forces, informing him that the SADF was declaring war and it would send its jet fighters to bomb the soldiers out of Maseru.

The spokesman said the Lesotho forces prepared themselves for the attack, but the Boers rather chose to evacuate their men using air force helicopters that landed at (Tseke a Modt) on the side of the international airport.

MAURITIUS

MMM WINS 'SWEEPING VICTORY' IN MUNICIPAL ELECTION

AB131251 Paris AFP in English 1218 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Port Louis, Dec. 13 (AFP) -- The ruling Mauritian Militant Movement [MMM] won a sweeping victory in yesterday's municipal election, results showed today. With only a few results still to come in the MMM had won 115 out of 126 seats, controlling all five municipalities in the Indian Ocean republic. It was the first major test for the party since the June general elections, in which the MMM completely ousted the ruling Labour Party from Parliament.

In yesterday's poll Labour gained just eight seats in the town of Vacoas-Phoenix. The other opposition group, the Social Democrats, considered a bigger threat to the MMM, only won three seats, in Beau-Bassin-Rose-Hill. Social Democrat leader Gaetan Duval lost his seat on the Curepipe Municipal Council, which was previously a bastion of his party. However the voter turnout was low at an average 43.89 percent, reflecting a generally apathetic response to the election campaign.

MOZAMBIQUE

MNR ATTACKS PFLM BARRACKS, AMBUSHES COLUMN

MB140800 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Africa in Portuguese to Mozambique 1700 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Chimoio -- The headquarters of the Mozambique National Resistance [MNR] has requested the dissemination of the following communique:

1. On 26 November 1982, MNR guerrillas laid an ambush on the Beira-Chimoio Road in the Inchope area of Manica Province, resulting in the destruction of a car belonging to a state transport company based in Chimoio. Mr Joao Azevedo, the driver of the vehicle, was captured by our forces.

2. On 29 November 1982 MNR guerrillas attacked the locality of Vanduzi, 30 km from Chimoio. Our forces destroyed a barracks of the Popular Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique [PFLM] and captured 22 light weapons of different models, a 60-mm mortar and a large quantity of ammunition and grenades. The police station as well as the administration office and 6 vehicles and 14 tractors belonging to a state company were destroyed. Six members of the local population who had been held in jail were freed.

3. On 30 November 1982 our forces ambushed a military column on the Maringue-(Gumburacai) Road in the Macossa area of Sofala Province.

4. On 1 December 1982 an MNR group engaged in a battle with the so-called PFLM in the (Chifura) area near Vila Machado. Frelimo troops fled, abandoning large quantities of war materiel.

The struggle continues. Freedom or death, victory is ours.

SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG: RSA WILLING TO NEGOTIATE

MB131647 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Station commentary: "The Onslaught Against South Africa"]

[Text] South Africa's tactics in dealing with the onslaught against her were graphically illustrated in the past fortnight. On the Cape Verde Islands a senior South African delegation had talks with top Angolan officials on the South-West African settlement issue. What this illustrated once again, was South Africa's willingness to settle dispute by negotiation with neighboring states. In fact, it has been the South African attitude all along, that even when neighboring states disagree with this country politically, this has not prevented South Africa from maintaing cordial diplomatic relations.

However, there is another facet to South African attitudes and actions, and that was manifest in the raid on African National Congress terrorist bases in Lesotho. South Africa will not allow her stability to be threatened by hostile forces operating from a neighboring state.

In the past year, the ANC headquarters in Maseru had been responsible for a variety of terrorist attacks on South African targets and captured documents indicated that the ANC had drastic plans for the future that would have caused deaths and suffering in South Africa over the festive season. The miracle insofar as Lesotho is concerned is that South Africa waited so long before sending her forces into Maseru. Lesotho played with fire and got her fingers burned in the process.

South Africa has not only been acting against the communist-supported forces in the subcontinent. In a major raid, South African police have uncovered arms caches and have arrested white members of the militant rightwing movement, the AWB, or Afrikaner Weerstand Beweging, which means Afrikaner resistance movement. Leaders in South Africa have made it clear in the past that they are opposed equally to extremists from the right or the left and will take appropriate action when the security of the state is threatened.

The aim of the South African Government is to find a dispensation in this country which satisfies the aspirations of all population groups -- and in such a drive, extremism and violence are counter-productive. That also applies to the broader situation in southern Africa, a subcontinent with enormous potential, which could be realized if the countries comprising it adopted realistic policies based on the spirit of cooperation.

AWB SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON DETENTION OF LEADER

MB131052 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] The Afrikaner Weerstands Beweging [AWB--Afrikaner Opposition Movement] has commented on the detention of its leader.

The leader of the rightwing organization, Eugene Terre'Blanche, was detained on Friday along with eight other AWB members. In a statement issued in Pretoria AWB Secretary J.J. (Groenewald), has said that if any of the detainees had overstepped the law the AWB disassociated itself from their alleged actions. However, (Groenewald) says the detention does not conform to what he calls Terre'Blanche's declared standpoint on violent action. Large quantities of hidden weapons were reported to have been found after the detention of the AWB members.

SWAZILAND

PAPER SAYS BOMBED HOUSE LEASED BY MOZAMBICAN

MB120948 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English 11 Dec 82 p 1

[Excerpts] A powerful bomb blast ripped off part of a house at the Fairview residential area of Manzini yesterday. The blast caused extensive damage to the house, as well as damaged houses within a radius of a hundred metres.

The bomb which went off at dawn yesterday, is believed to have been planted around 3.00 a.m. and it went off around 4.00 a.m. The house is leased by a Mozambiquan, a Mr. Corriea who was not in when the blast occured.

Police immediately rushed to the spot, but at the time of going to press, no statements had been made on the incident.

The blast which comes in the wake of an invasion on ANC houses in Maseru, Lesotho, apparently may have political overtones. The leasee of the house which belongs to a Mr. Dlamini (leased through a Manzini company), is the owner of a shop at Lomahasha border post.

Mr. Marmeleiro said, his cousin a Mr. Carminda Marmeleiro who went to Mozambique four months ago, has still not returned, and said they believed he is in prison in Maputo.

Mr. Marmeleiro also said that recently when they sent a driver from the Lomahasha shop to deliver goods inside Mozambique, he was detained for several days in that country.

More on Explosion

MB110908 Mbabane Domestic Television Service in Siswati 1630 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] Nine people escaped uninjured this morning when their house was hit by a blast believed to have been a bomb explosion. Our reporters went to the scene and talked to Mr (Antoro) Marmeleiro, a nephew of Mr Marmeleiro, who is said to own a shop in Lomahasha. (Antoro) Marmeleiro, who was one of those sleeping in the house when the blast occurred, told our reporters that, at 0300 today, he heard dogs barking, but he paid no attention. Then at 0400 today, he heard a noise like thunder. When he went out to check what was happening, he did not find anyone.

Their house was extensively damaged, including all the windows as well as the windows of neighboring houses.

Police and firefighters arrived on the scene 10 minutes after the explosion. There were no casualties.